KEEP STRONG

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee
Vol. 2 No. 8 MARCH, 1977 25 CENTS

- Milwaukee School Board Election
- Free Huey!

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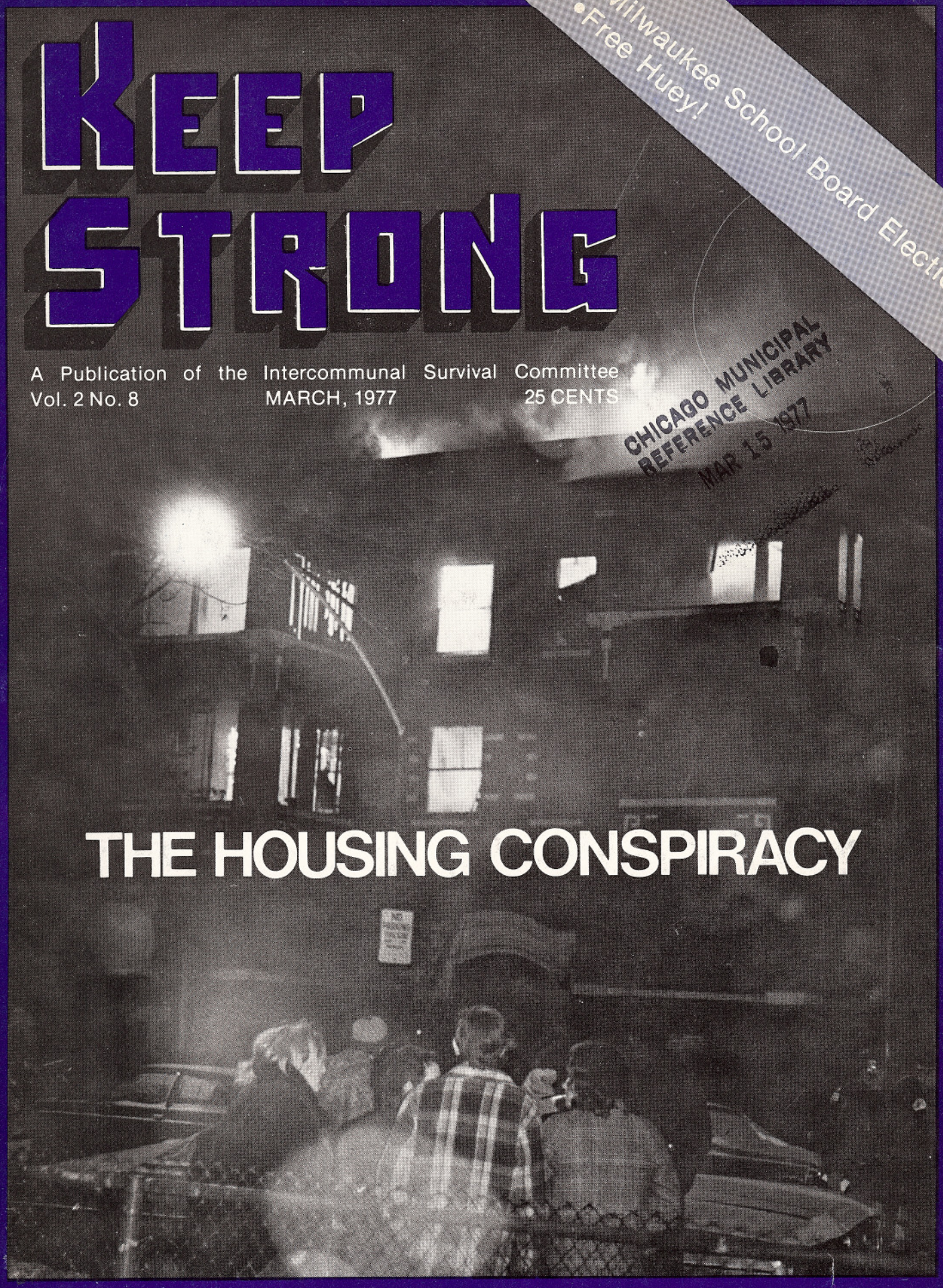

THE HOUSING CONSPIRACY

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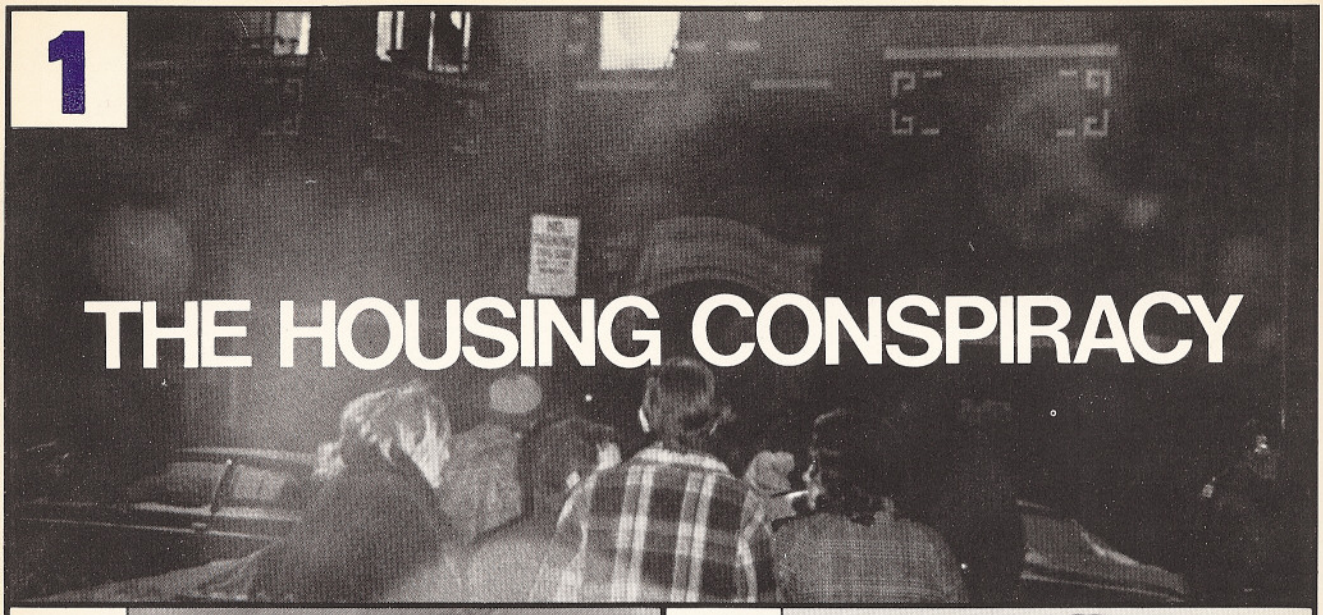

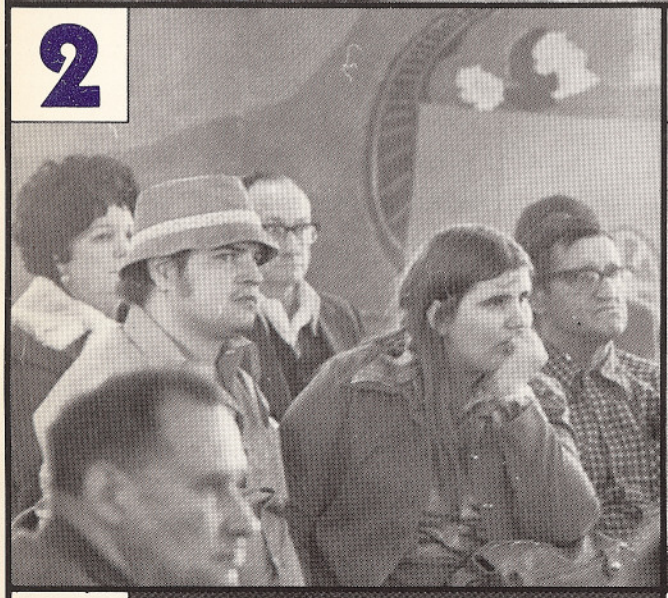

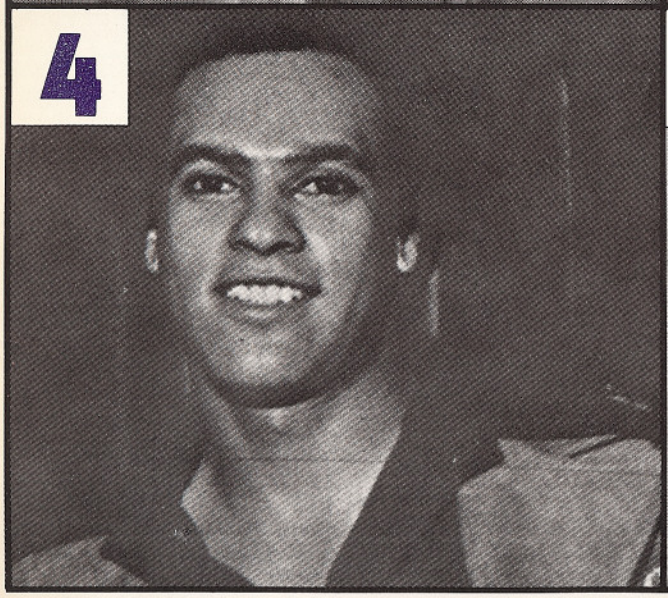

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In This Issue

1. The story of masterplans in every major city across the country starts with the slum housing owned and operated by speculators interested in their pocket books. See Editorial, page 2 and feature, page 23.

2. The effects of black lung on the family was one of the many aspects of this occupational disease discussed at a recent Chicago Area Black Lung Association meeting. See page 26.

3. Dissatisfaction with city schools is widespread in Milwaukee. See page 29.

4. A renewed campaign to bring exiled Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton back to this country has begun with vigor. See page 32.

5. Jose "Pepe" Medina describes events leading up to his exile from Mexico in part 2 of an exclusive *KEEP STRONG* interview. See page 34.

EDITORIAL

A Tenant's Education

A tenant's education takes longer often than a doctor's or a lawyer's, and it is more expensive, because the rent must be paid every month. The first grade of the tenant's school is the ice on the inside of the windows in January, the busted water pipes, the cold water, the peeling paint that causes lead poisoning, the doors with locks that fall open, the pop-a-top again mailboxes, and more and more likely, the taste of smoke, the sight of flames and the sound of screams on a cold, dark night.

The tenant's school teaches fear, frustration, anger and heartbreak. But we admit that it gives knowledge. When the tenant begins to fight back, it is like peeling an onion. Layer after layer of lies and corruption and concealment are revealed. A system becomes clear, based on the suffering of tenants.

The small landlord may make life miserable, but usually because his own life is being made miserable. The tenant learns, when he fights the small landlord, that he is really fighting the banks. When the tenant tries to use the city housing departments, he finds they are already in use: the slumlords have them busy being bought off and the speculators and developers are using them to harass the small landlord out of the business. When the small landlord is driven out, the "businessmen" come in.

The tenant learns in fighting the larger landlords that they are just small-time muggers, taking advantage of dark and unprotected places in the road. They buy a building cheap, collect rents, do no repairs, pay no bills until the building is near death. If called into court, they sell it for a dollar to one of their associates and get another year to milk the building from the court. When the building is almost gone, then they burn it, collect the insurance and sell the land. But when the tenant finds out who bought the land, he has earned his high school diploma.

Behind the small-time speculators and slumlord rip-offs are banks and multi-national corporations that own half the resources of the world: Standard Oil, the First National Bank, Chase Manhattan — and a few others. The men at the top of these corporations and banks are the ones who have decided that the tenants of the city — those who are poor and working people, who are Black, Latino and poor White — should be driven from the

To Our Readers

The enthusiastic response to KEEP STRONG *has been heartening. Our distribution demands have increased accordingly. Unfortunately, for financial reasons, we have been unable to produce as many magazines as there have been demands for. So, for the next several months as we increase the number of magazines published we will be printing on newsprint.*

The entire staff of KEEP STRONG *works on a voluntary basis. Subscriptions which cost $25 a year help to subsidize the street price of 25 cents which is our way to insure that anyone who would like to read* KEEP STRONG *can afford to. In addition, Keep Strong Publishing Company runs a printing service, Community Printing and Design. All profits from this service go directly to subsidize the magazine.*

Your support through purchase of a subscription for yourself, a friend or someone incarcerated in any of this country's many prisons and jails; through use of Community Printing and Design for all your printing, layout and typesetting needs; and of course, through donations of any amount would be greatly appreciated at this time.

All Power to the People

Helen Shiller

Helen Shiller
Editor, KEEP STRONG

city. They brought us here in search of jobs, now they are finished with us. They have made the decision to let our neighborhoods self-destruct, to let our schools go out of business, to let our children go hungry.

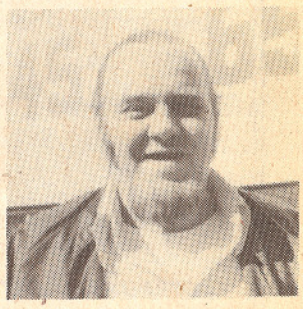
When the tenant learns that it is possible to fight these giants, step by step, one piece at a time, the tenant has earned a Ph.D. For the tenant is also a voter and can put tools, like Mayor Bilandic of Chicago, out of business. They can go from busted pipes and burning buildings to people's power, fighting to learn and to win every step of the way. It is not the most pleasant way to live a life, but there is no real alternative, and we owe it to the next generation to take the knowledge we gain and use it to fight the enemy.□

ON THE STREET

"DO YOU WANT HANRAHAN FOR MAYOR OF CHICAGO OR FOR THE MURDER OF FRED HAMPTON AND MARK CLARK?"

David Perez
N. Orchard

"For the murder of Fred Hampton? Of course, because he murdered them. He should pay for it! I wish he *would* pay for it."

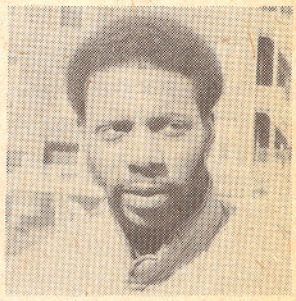


Richard Culver
N. Magnolia

"The murder of Fred Hampton. Maybe he didn't murder him, but he had the people to do it — *his people*. He didn't do it himself, but he was involved in it. I believe he was the leader of it."

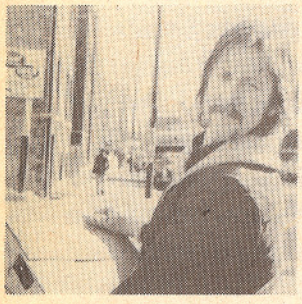
Irene Evans
N. Janssen

"No, he shouldn't be mayor. He's been running for all these different offices; he's never done anything. I don't want to see him in. I wouldn't vote for him."



Jimmy Jones
W. Roscoe

"To be tried for the murder of Fred Hampton; as far as mayor goes at this time, I don't think there's anyone qualified to run for mayor or be mayor of this city. Mayor Daley, to me, wasn't qualified. For sure I think he should be tried for the murder of Fred Hampton. I do believe that."



Bill Forrest
W. Walnut
Downers Grove

"He should be tried for the murder because he's a thief. He was the brains behind the whole thing."

DO YOU WANT THIS MAN TO BE YOUR MAYOR?

According to court testimony made under oath:

- **On December 4, 1969, Hanrahan, as Cook County state's attorney, sent 14 policemen assigned to him to a raid at the residence of the dynamic Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton.**
- **Several policemen took their own personal weapons along, including a carbine and a Thompson sub-machine gun.**
- **The alleged reason for the raid was a disputed dangerous weapons warrant. Hanrahan has stated that he considered this assignment to be a dangerous one. In spite of this he sent his men to the apartment at 4 a.m. when he knew Fred Hampton and other Party members would be there. He decided not to send them at 8 p.m. December 3 when he knew from intelligence reports that no one would be at home. The alleged weapons could have been seized, and threat of danger would have been removed.**
- **Fred Hampton was shot in the head at close range by policemen as he lay sleeping in his bed. An autopsy report shows that he had been drugged. The amount of drugs in his blood shows he was in a coma-like sleep at the time.**
- **Police Sgt. Carmody told newsmen immediately after the raid that he had no idea that he was going to a Panther apartment. His close family friend, Sgt. Gilhoody, had been shot and killed three weeks earlier in an alleged shoot-out between police and BPP members. BPP member Spurgeon "Jake" Winters was also killed in that incident.**
- **Within several hours after the raid Hanrahan held a press conference denouncing the Panthers as thugs and criminals. He claimed that Hampton was shot as he fired upon police. He displayed a photo taken of the front door of the apartment. He pointed to holes in the door and described them as bullet holes from Panther weapons. It is now an undisputed fact that these holes were made by nails.**
- **Hanrahan "conducted his investigation" of the raid and held numerous press conferences *without ever going to the apartment or examining any physical evidence.* He brought charges against the survivors of the raid based on the alleged "fact" that Brenda Harris had fired at police.**
- **The FBI conducted an investigation into the raid for a federal grand jury which convened in April and May, 1970. The FBI concluded that of 100 shots fired, 99 definitely came from police weapons. An FBI ballistics expert identified the bullets claimed by Hanrahan to have been fired at police by Brenda Harris as coming from officer Ciszewski's gun.**
- **Hanrahan met with Jerris Leonard from the Justice Department and made a secret deal; Hanrahan agreed to drop all charges against the Panthers. Jerris Leonard agreed not to bring any charges against the 14 raiding policemen.**
- **When Hanrahan held a press conference last month to announce his candidacy for mayor, he told the press that he could get the Black vote because people knew that the Panthers shot at police.**

WELFARE RIGHTS

Cut Off For Moving Next Door

(Chicago, Ill.) Joann Hammond and her four children have been receiving public aid for some time. In January, Ms. Hammond moved with her family into the building next door to where she had been living. Several weeks later she was cut off of aid by the Department of Public Aid for not reporting her new address.

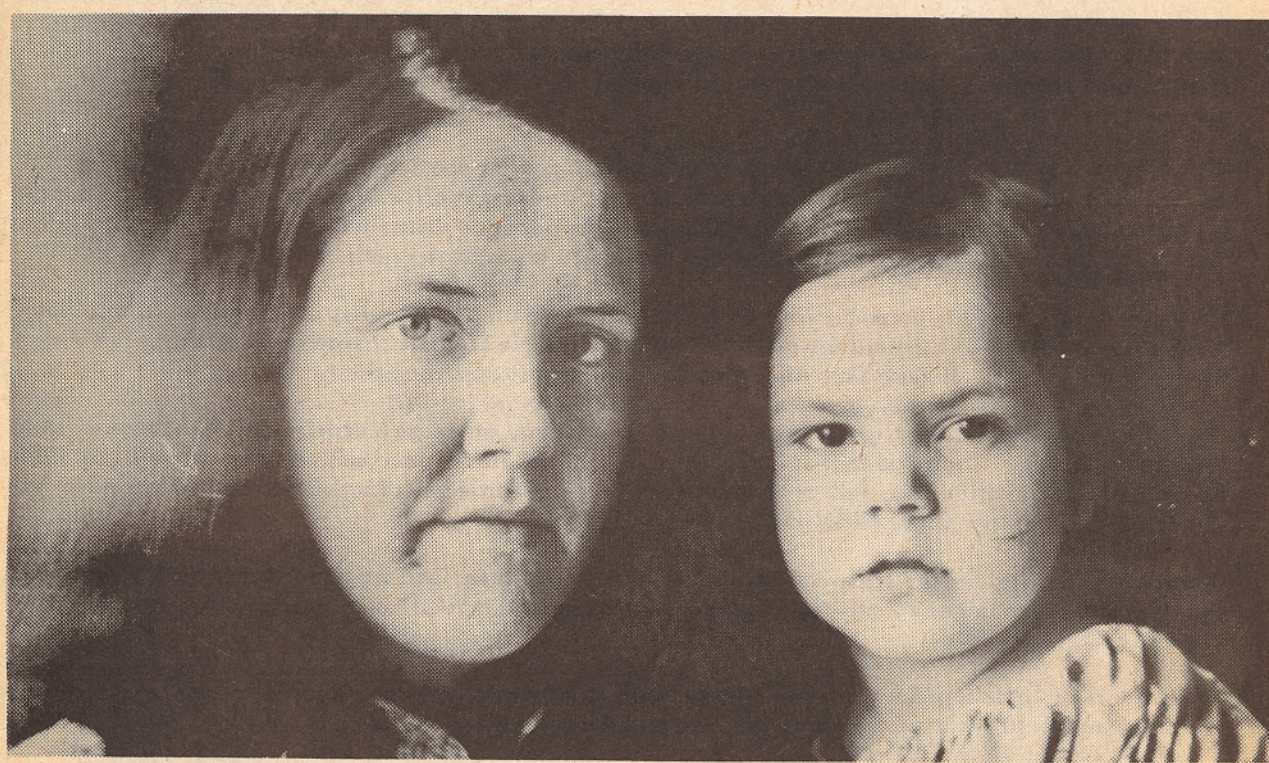
But Ms. Hammond says she tried to report her change of address. In fact, she says she called the local office several times over a two week period. But instead of talking to her caseworker, Mrs. Glundenberg, she was informed each time she called that Mrs. Glundenberg was not in and was not her caseworker. Although Ms. Hammond tried to find out who her caseworker was if it wasn't Mrs. Glundenberg, she wasn't able to. She had received no notification of any change and didn't know who to believe.

After two weeks Ms. Hammond finally reached Mrs. Glundenberg. It was confirmed; Ms. Hammond had been assigned a new caseworker, Mr. Halbracher. So she called him. Before she had an opportunity to explain her new situation, he informed her that she had been cut off aid because she hadn't notified him of her change of address. She was told she would have to reapply.

Mrs. Hammond turned to the 46th Ward Community Service Center's Welfare Defense Program. With a Service Center advocate she went to the welfare office. After waiting there most of the day, Mr. Halbracher finally saw her only to say, "You didn't notify me of your change of address" and "you have to reapply."

The welfare department manual says a person has to be notified by mail and given an opportunity to file an appeal if the department thinks he or she should be cut off for any reason. However, there is nothing a person can do if they receive no notification of any change they might disagree with. If an appeal is filed before 10 days is up, the grant continues until a hearing is held. If an appeal is not filed, it is necessary to start all over by reapplying.

Ms. Hammond was not at fault for not getting an appeal filed on time. She was in constant communication with the welfare office. And yet, the burden has fallen on her. Ms. Hammond now faces the prospect of being without any money until the last week in April when her new application will come through.□



Although Ms. Hammond was not at fault for not getting her appeal filed on time, she will most likely have to wait until April to receive her money.

TENANTS' RIGHTS

The Small Landlord And Tenants Have A Common Interest

Although the overall trend in the Uptown community is towards the "bleeders and destroyers" milking buildings into destruction and then turning them over to the land developers and speculators to make further profits off of, some small landlords whose bests interests are closer to those of the tenants still exist. These small landowners either live in their building or have much invested in what is generally their only property. In both cases they are genuinely interested in maintaining a decent and livable building. One such landlord is Richard Kring who owns 4506 N. Magnolia.

In November, 1976, the Uptown Tenants Survival Union was contacted by the tenants of this building because they were without heat, and the landlord could not be contacted. Upon inspection it was easily determined that the building was gradually going downhill. At the time the building was being operated by a contract buyer. Upon investigation, however, it was also discovered that this contract buyer had defaulted on his mortgage payments. The next step was to locate the original deed holder of the building who, if the contract buyer had defaulted, stood the most to lose if the building were destroyed. This person was Richard Kring. In subsequent meetings with Kring, the tenants and representatives from UTSU agreed that the building should not be allowed to deteriorate, and they all agreed to work to improve conditions. Kring stated that he had sold the building to the contract buyer because he was no longer interested in being directly involved in solving the many problems which go along with running a building. Yet he was greatly disturbed with what was happening to his building and would work with the tenants to reverse this situation.

In the past three months the tenants along with other community volunteers from UTSU in cooperation with Kring have improved the building. The four vacant apartments have been rented; full utility service has been restored and paid up; the boiler has been restored to full working order; one apartment has been renovated and basic maintenance has been kept up to date. The financing for all of this has come from rent money which Kring has been willing to use entirely for building repairs until it can be brought to code.

Before Richard Kring was discovered and contacted by the tenants of 4506 N. Magnolia, they made several moves to insure improvement in their situation. They took the first steps necessary to have the building put into receivership. In addition, they paid their rents to an escrow account so it wouldn't be eaten up by the contract buyer. Above, UTSU counsel James Chapman meets with tenants after attending court on the question of receivership.

According to spokespersons from UTSU, "The small landlords need to realize that they are being run out of the community by the same interests that are running the tenants out of this community. They stand to lose along with the rest of us if the city and big developers are allowed to carry out their plans. If these people will come to grips with what is really happening with housing in this area and can see the need to work to maintain low-income housing, then things can begin to happen. With some basic tenant control and cooperation of the landlord these buildings can be improved and even brought to operate at a profit."□

ON THE JOB

CETA: Who's Hustling Who?

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) The Concentrated Employment Training Act (CETA program) was authorized by Congress to establish a series of programs which would train and find jobs for thousands of city residents whose jobs have left the city or fallen to automation.

Each year millions of federal tax dollars pour into the cities for a variety of programs aimed at the unskilled and unemployed. Neighborhoods like Walker's Point in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where 50% of the adults have less than a 10th grade education and official unemployment has been over 15% for half a decade, desperately need and desire such employment training programs.

Danny Rataczyk jumped at the opportunity to join a CETA program when he heard of the opening through the state of Wisconsin. Danny graduated from South Division High School in 1975. Since then he has worked off and on as a warehouseman, but has been unable to find steady or permanent work. Growing up in a family of 11, he has always been aware of the need to bring in a regular, sizable income.

In early February, Danny applied for a slot in a CETA welding program. He was interviewed and pre-tested by a worker from the state named Oberly. After reviewing the pre-test, Mr. Oberly informed Danny that his low reading level disqualified him from the program. He suggested that Danny take a six month reading course at Milwaukee Area Technical College and said there was nothing else he could do for him.

Back on the street and still broke, Danny talked to some friends who called the state to see if he could take a reading course while in the welding program, as he needed to start earning money right away. Oberly explained that there was a pre-vocational program that would pay a person while he went to school for basic skills. He went on to say that he didn't inform Danny about this during the interview because he thought Danny was "just hustling money," and he wasn't going to be part of anybody's hustle.

Recent investigations of the entire CETA program in the city of Milwaukee raise the serious question of "Just who is hustling who?" In the last year several college graduates have been uncovered holding CETA slots (having acquired these positions because they or their parents had the "right connections"), while the city of Milwaukee reported in 1975 that of the nearly three thousand people who had passed through its own CETA public service program, only 15% had gotten jobs after the program and 56% were almost permanently unemployed.

There is no guarantee that Danny Rataczyk won't get a second runaround when and if he goes back to apply for another CETA. He doesn't really want to waste any more time or put up with any more humiliation.

It would appear that hundreds of thousands of Danny Rataczyks are walking the streets, scraping for a few dollars, while millions of dollars will be spent on programs that don't train anybody and people who don't need any training.□

Electronic Brake Failures Cause National Alarm

(Garnett, Kans.) A new Peterbilt tractor piled into a string of vehicles stopped by a flagman for road construction, as well as into the on-coming traffic lane, when the 18-wheeler's electronic computer controlled air brakes failed causing the nation's largest recorded accident directly linked to electronic computer brake system failure.

When the glass and metal quit flying, there were a total of 8 cars struck, damaged, with four cars total losses. Five persons received medical treatment for injuries, but luckily there were no fatalities due to the fact the 18-wheeler tractor trailer rig was slowing down, had its emergency 4 way blinkers on, and the driver tried to alert the others by using his air horn as he bore down upon the stopped vehicles.

Witnesses claim they could hear the escaping air as the veteran CB 18-wheeler driver, Elvin (#1 Sonaofa Guns) Malburg Jr. frantically pumped his air brake electronic computer control system.

This was the nation's largest accident caused

directly by the failure of the new federally required electronic computer controlled air brake system, which could have easily been larger in damages, and probably would have caused many fatalities if it had been on the open super slab or highway at regular highway speeds.

Malburg said his electronic computer brake system failed to work when he tried to stop behind a line of southbound traffic stopped and waiting for a pilot car at a road construction site at the junction of US 59 and US 169.

Results were an 18-wheeler truck crash involving eight cars, making this accident the largest recorded direct failure of the new electronic computorized anti-skid, anti-lock braking systems, the Department of Transportation and federal highway safety administration are requiring on all new trucks and busses after January 1, 1977.

18-wheeler drivers who have driven the new electronic computerized anti-skid brake systems call them unreliable, unsafe, dangerous and killers. The breaking failures of these new space age computerized brake systems is not new, as thousands of accidents and incidents have been recorded, of both the equipped rigs and buses across the nation.

Truckers call the new electronic computer brake systems the Watergate Brake or Politicians Graft Brakes, and do not want to be forced to use them. As one trucker put it, "Why should I risk my life and my rig on some politician's dream to improve my rigs brakes. Maybe that green back collecting politician should be forced to crawl up behind a wheel of one of these 18-wheelers and try his own killer electronic brake system out."

"One thing is for sure, 73,000 pounds of truck and cargo, running out of control on the nation's highways are not the truckers' doings, but the bureaucrats in Washington, who never put a foot up in these rigs," said veteran trucker, Bill Bayington, of Memphis, Tennessee.

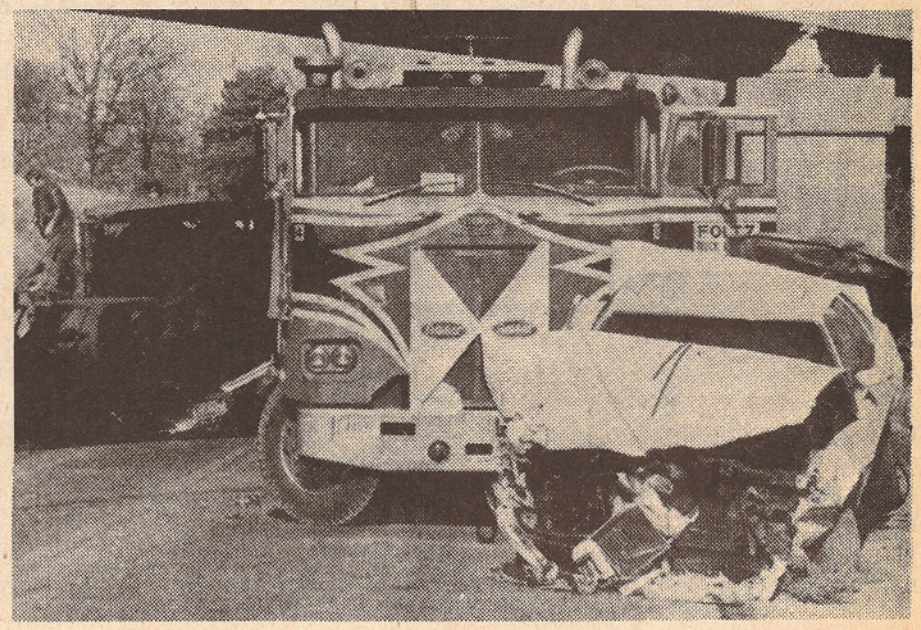
Ford Motor Company recalled 7,000 of its large trucks in 1976, due to the malfunctioning of the electronic computerized braking systems. Bus companies disconnected the dangerous electronic sensors, as truckers removed them from their rigs.

Long range two-way radio transmitters in the 30-50 megahertz band have long been blamed for interferring with the electronic computerized truck braking systems. Now microwave towers and police radio bands are being questioned, suspected.

The electronic wheel sensors were now supposedly corrected by a special shielding device, such as was the new Peterbilt equipped with Eaton Electronic Braking System, and yet here all wheels braking system failed completely.

One thing is certain, the accidents of malfunctioning, braking failures continue, as the federal government's D.O.T. forces the trucking industry to use the new electronic computerized braking systems that fail, and cause eight-car pileups such as this one.□

Reprinted from C.B. Truckers News



Space age computerized brake systems are required by law on all new trucks and buses as of January 1, 1977. Radio transmissions have been blamed for interferring with the system making breaking power non-existent. The band used by state police in many areas is the same frequency, which might be part of the problem.

LEGAL RIGHTS

Restitution Or Extortion?

(Chicago, Ill.) In some cases of robbery or theft the court may order restitution paid to the victim by the person accused after he or she has been convicted. This means that if money or an item valued at a certain amount has been stolen, the money, the money value of the item or, if possible, the item itself must be paid back as part of the sentence of the convicted person. It has come to the attention of *KEEP STRONG* that this idea of restitution has apparently been turned into virtual extortion by certain Chicago policemen.

Last month Arthur Maybry, an 18 year old Uptown resident, was arrested by 23rd district police allegedly for strong-armed robbery. They said he and his brother-in-law had stolen $100 from a woman the night before as she left a neighborhood liquor store. Arthur had been at his landlord's apartment that night with his girl-friend. Several friends had also stopped in for a short while.

According to Arthur, when he was taken to the police station the next day, one of the officers noted that Arthur did not fit the description the victim had given them. He commented, "How are you going to miss a beard like that?" referring to Arthur's beard. The victim had said that the two men who had robbed her were 6 ft. 2 in. and about 5 ft. 2 in. She hadn't mentioned any beards. Arthur is 5 ft. 11 in.

When he arrived at the station, as Arthur describes it, he was not informed of his rights. He and his brother-in-law were both put in a line up. After Arthur stated his name, the victim picked him as her assailant.

Shortly after, Fitzsimmons from area 6 robbery, arrived. Fitzsimmons told him that he had 45 minutes to come up with $100, or they would get an indictment and send them to county jail. Knowing that getting $100 would be easier than getting money for bond and a lawyer to defend him, and having little money to spare at home for a legal defense, Arthur called his sister. He wasn't too excited about going to the county jail and was angered because he knew he was innocent of what he was accused of and didn't have the money to fight it.

While Arthur and his brother-in-law waited for his sister he was forced to listen to Fitzsimmons taunt his brother-in-law about being a "White boy going to county jail," using racial epithets to scare the young man.

His sister came with $100 which the police made Arthur give to the woman along with his apologies. After holding him for another five hours and his brother-in-law for seven while they ran a name check, the two were finally released.

Before Arthur was released, but after he had paid the money, his girl friend contacted an attorney and was told to make sure he got a receipt for the money. So, before he left, Arthur asked them for a receipt. The police told him they couldn't give him a receipt because none of them touched the money.□

POLICE WATCH

Police Killing: "Cold-Blooded Murder"

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) On Friday night, January 28, Everett Scott, Jr. graduated from Tilden High School in Brooklyn, N.Y. By 4:30 Saturday morning he was dead, killed by an off-duty detective from the district attorney's office. An investigation was asked for by stunned relatives and friends. The request was granted, and preliminary results of the investigation indicate a senseless murder of an unarmed youth.

According to detective Lawrence Goldman, he was driving home when he spotted three youths, at the same time hearing a burglar alarm. He got out of his car and ordered the youths to stop. The detective then stated that one youth ran, and while trying to frisk the other two, he was jumped, so he shot. Everett Scott, 18 years old, of 1407 55th St., Borough Park, was killed, and his friend, Kevin Ronayne, 19, of 5818 Avenue M, was wounded in the abdomen.

Investigators later learned that the alarm in a nearby liquor store had gone off because

Everett Scott, Jr., murdered by police: "These were good kids. They work. They were polite. What more do you expect?"

of a malfunction in the system. Kevin Ronayne denied they jumped the detective. In the hospital he stated that he and Everett had spent the night celebrating Everett's graduation. They had just had breakfast at a nearby luncheonette and were on their way home. "We are not burglars," he said. The D.A.'s office has since cleared them of any suspicions that they had committed a crime.

The lawyer for detective Goldman is city councilman, Edward Rappaport from Brooklyn. Rappaport was chief counsel to the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association until his recent appointment to the city council to fill a vacant seat. His appointment to the city council was strongly opposed by Black and Puerto Rican leaders because Rappaport is also representing another police officer, Robert Torsney, accused of murdering a 15 year old Black youth last Thanksgiving. That incident has been described as "cold-blooded murder" by many community leaders (See *KEEP STRONG*; Dec., 1976).

Regarding the Everett Scott killing, Rappaport told reporters; "My client is a career police officer. He was acting in the line of duty."

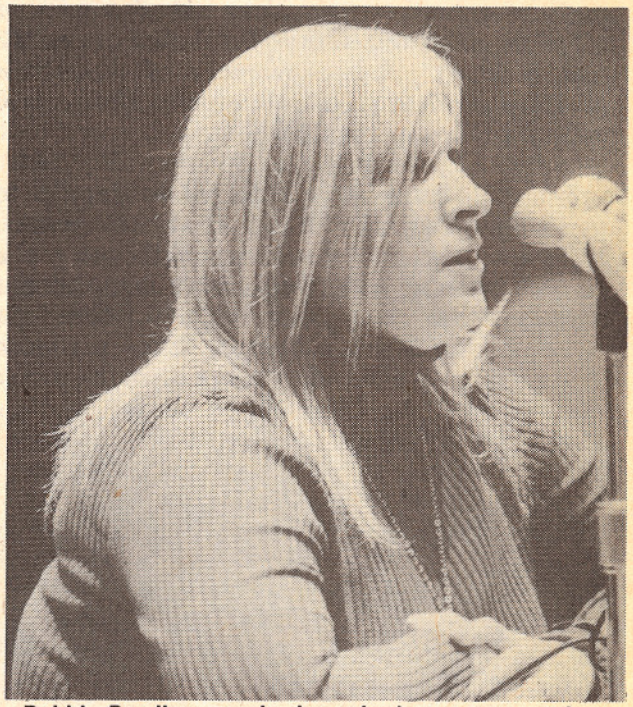
Many people in the neighborhood where the youths lived are bitter and angry. Harry Friedman, the owner of the luncheonette where Everett and Kevin had breakfast just moments before the shooting, spoke for many when he said, "These were good kids. They work. They were polite. What more do you expect?"□

All The Law Breaking...

(Chicago, Ill.) During mid morning on February 14, 1977 and within minutes after her husband had been arrested, Bobbi Pendley was hit square in the face by her front door as it was kicked open by a policeman entering unannounced and without a warrant.

About a half-hour earlier three policemen had entered her home and searched it. After brutally beating her husband and threatening to shoot him in the head, they arrested him and left.

Concerned because her husband had been arrested and taken to jail without a shirt or shoes and socks on, Bobbi hurried to put together some clean clothing for him. As she carried his clothes from the kitchen to the living room, Bobbi passed by her front door just as one of the same three policemen who had originally arrested her husband, kicked in the door.



Bobbi Pendley received a broken nose and a concussion when police kicked in her door.

As the door hit her Bobbi saw the man behind it, then she saw stars and collapsed. According to her son and daughter who were present, Bobbi was knocked out for one to three minutes. Approximately 13 squad cars had pulled up by their house. As all the policemen ran through their apartment, Bobbi lay in the hallway. She received no aid from any of the police there.

Five minutes later the police were gone and Bobbi had a broken nose, some torn ligaments in her hand and a concussion. Since her husband had been arrested earlier by at least one of the same police and since no one ever showed her a search warrant or offered her an explanation, Bobbi has never learned the purpose of the officers' visit. One of her neighbors who observed the comings and goings of the police that morning remarked, "It seems to me, all the law breaking was done by the police."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Attica Is Not Over

(Chicago, Ill.) *Last month* KEEP STRONG *had an opportunity to interview Big Black, one of the leaders emerging from the prison rebellion in Attica in 1971 who has continued to work, since his parole, with Attica Now, the defense and organizing committee that has grown out of the fast growing prison movement of which the rebellion at Attica was just a part. The text of this interview appears below.*

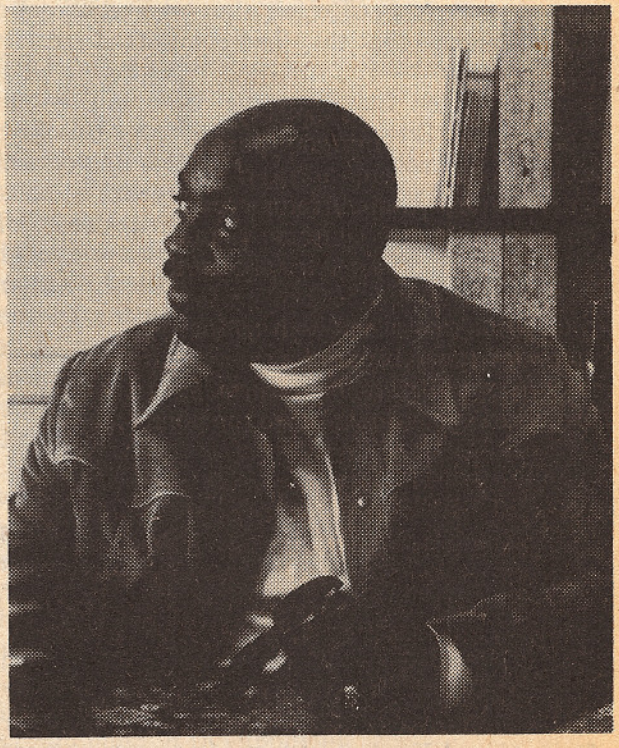
"First of all, the best way for me to give this to you is that everybody looked at Attica as an issue that was over. Carey said he was closing the books by dealing with Dacajeweiah John Hill, but we all know in a true sense that he tightened the book up. Carey knew that once he pardoned Johnny to the parole department, that the parole department is an independent agency in New York State. Carey got it out of the people's eyes by saying that Johnny had a pardon but he never did elaborate on what a pardon consisted of and a lot of people thought of Nixon because they knew what a pardon was in reference to Nixon. But a pardon means you did do a crime and the state or whoever it is, finds too much pressure so they're going to dispose of it. But realistically you are guilty. Our position is that Johnny or no other Attica brother is guilty of any crimes at Attica. We're still moving for that position.

"After Johnny got that pardon he went to the parole board, and they gave him a two-year hit. The person that is chairman of the parole board in New York State is a Black dude named Hammick. When the Attica indictments first came out, this person was one of the chief prosecutors. We also did an investigation, and we found out some Black woman who sat on the parole board worked as Rockefeller's assistant for 12 years, even during 1971 when he told the troops to come into Attica State Prison to take the prison back. So you see...the conspiracy goes on.

"Attica is not over with. Dacajeweiah is still in prison, doing two years. Brother Dalou still has an indictment. We got brothers sitting in prison right now from Attica, that are still in prison, not in the streets. But the people don't know this because the media takes it and projects it only one way.

"When I say Attica, I take the prison system as a whole because Attica is just where the massacre took place in 1971.

"Tensions, slave wages, the same 31 demands (more Black police, more recreation programs) they're doing it but they're doing it on a level where it further oppresses the convicts. They'll set up pre-release programs, where a person can go outside, might get a college education. But they deal with residency applicants. That means if a person is in Attica State Prison, and they're from New York City, they're down on the bottom of the list. They might never be afforded these



Big Black: "We've got a broader scope to deal with than just concentrating on the prison, and we've got to let the community know that."

programs. To be straight to the point, the prisons in New York State are tighter with their words and with those programs they have set up than they were five or six years ago.

"In November we had a steering committee set up, and we had a National Conference in Green Haven State Prison around the same issues we were talking about in 1971. The state of New York still has not fulfilled those 31 demands. And they're just not for New York State. They're national demands. Because if they get implemented, they just don't apply to New York State. They apply to Illinois as well. So the prison is no different. The tension is still up.

"The 31 demands include being able to practice any faith or religion that you choose; we're asking to get rid of the doctors they now have inside; to get rid of the warden; we're asking to stop the slave labor; we're asking for more Black police; we're asking for Latino, Chicano-speaking people to be in the institution. We're asking to get the pork out of the diet, the starch off the table; we're asking to get more than one shower a week; to communicate with anyone that we want to communicate with. We ask to take the screen away; to give us private visitation rights; to stop censoring mail.

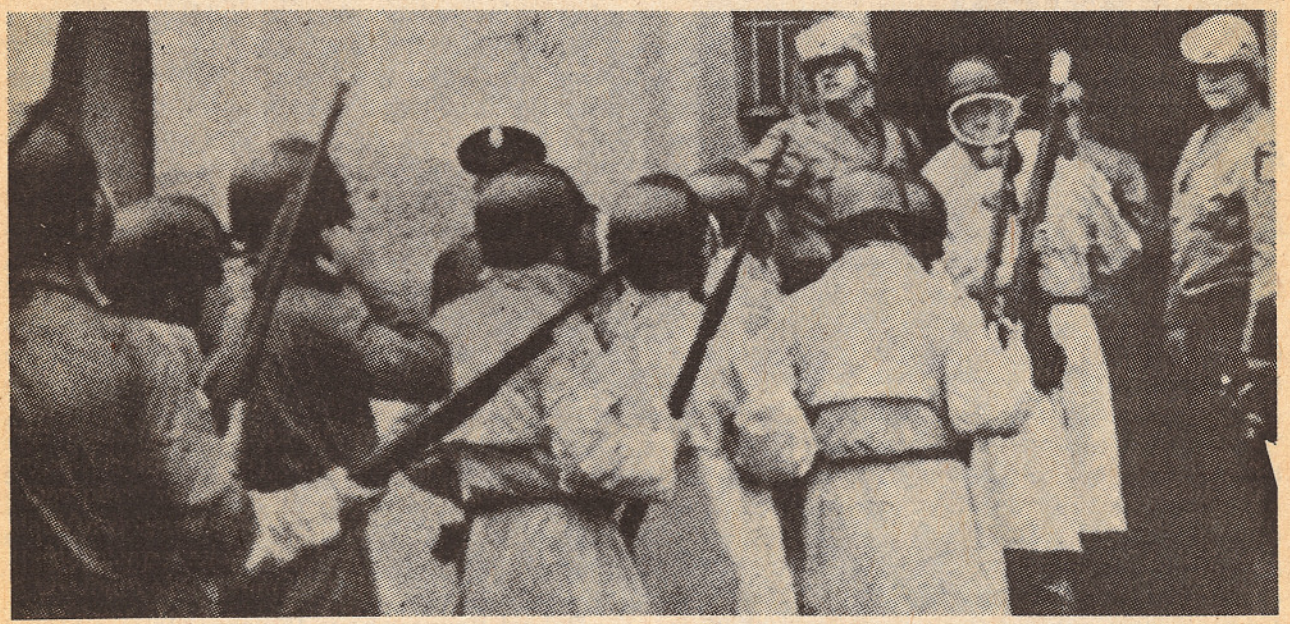
"We're also demanding the right to confer with a legislative person about legislative matters. They're setting up life sentences — you know — two levels of dealing with you when you get busted. One through the judicial, another through the penal. Those are some of the demands.

"If you see the Attica film, you'll see how they trap you with reforms. They've got the 'white collar,' just like the white collar crimes. They've got the inmate politicians inside, too. But the system created that. They make people feel like they're different from each other.

"Like me, if I wanted to take a position, it would be easier for me to take it. I worked for the warden; I did the warden's clothes. I'd consider myself to be better than someone who was just working in the laundry and wasn't doing their job, and the institution knows this. They treat the people in the mess hall just a little better than the dude in the barber shop. The dude in the barber shop is better than the porter in the hallway. All of this is to keep disturbances down.

"If they see any kind of race problems being dealt with among the inmates, being unified or dealing with a collective decision, they disturb that. That's the way the politicians keep the institutions moving, always keeping tension up.

"The average institution just like Attica State Prison is in the town of Attica. The mayor of Attica town is a sergeant in Attica Prison. Everybody who works in Attica Prison lives in that town. And the production from the slave labor and wages pays the salary of everybody who works in the institution because they got a big metal foundation in Attica State Prison. Millions of dollars come out of there a year. Right after Attica, they were talking about bettering the institution. You know what the first thing they did was? They put in $56 thousand in security. The first thing they did was put a tower



Right after Attica, they were talking about bettering the institution. The first thing they did was put a tower in the recreation yard, right there where you'd be playing ball when you're outside.

in the recreation yard, not in the wall, but right down in the yard where you'd be playing ball and whatever you'd be doing when you're outside. Then they turn around and buy the inmates a new uniform — see the tokenism?

"But that's just inside. Now, let's come from there and back outside, because that's where it is. Regardless of how much we complain about the conditions and what's going on inside, even in our communities or wherever we may be, the point I think now, in 1977, is why this is happening, if we really want to get into it.

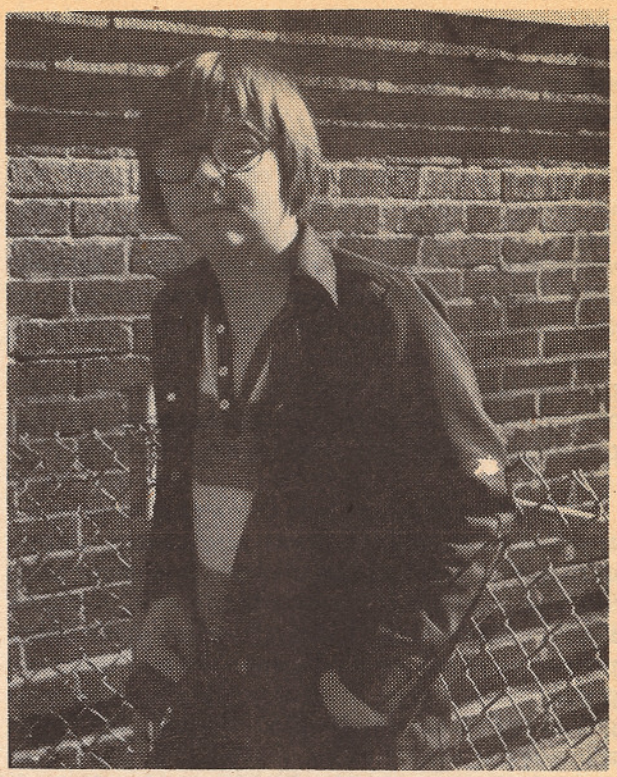
"And our biggest job right now is bringing it back and confronting the community with the problem. We've got a broader scope to deal with than just concentrating on the prison, and we've got to let the community know that.

"Well, you know, the prisons is a broad focus. We got to focus on the prisons. Some of our strongest people are behind the wall, though we might not know it. I'm not talking about vanguard or direction coming from the prison to the community and then being projected; you need that leg, that physical thing in the prison. They got it. But you need that movement. You got to be able to move beyond the prison — even in this minimum prison (outside) where you can get around. Where we're at in our community is where the direction has got to be coming from. We got to get all the energy we can get from behind that wall."□

EDUCATION

Fighting The Learning Disability Classroom

(Chicago, Ill.) The public school system in this country, especially in large metropolitan areas like Chicago often uses a method of "tracking" the students into classes which the teachers or administrators feel will be most beneficial either to the school, the children or both. The way this works is that if a child appears to be more intelligent than many of the other children of the same age, he or she will be tracked into a classroom where the child is allowed to work at a faster pace and given more



Robert Young is talented in auto mechanics and has other mechanical abilities, but the public schools won't let him pursue this interest.

individual attention. Likewise, if a child has problems learning or coping with the discipline that is expected, he or she is generally tracked into a classroom with children who have similar "problems" and are given a special curriculum designed to deal with these problems.

In Chicago's public school system, one method of tracking exists where a child is put into a "Learning Disability Classroom." The Learning Disability Classroom is set up for children with "emotional, physical or psychological handicaps" who have a difficult time keeping up with the work expected of them in a regular class. According to Board of Education policy, no child is supposed to be put into such a classroom without written consent from the child's parents. Parents may reject a decision to have their child placed in Learning Disabilities (LD). They can request a hearing to determine if such a measure is necessary and to work out any difference between themselves and the Board of Education. This classroom technique has often come under fire from parents and community residents alike who feel that it is really an excuse by the school system to take the burden of education off the schools and put it on the child.

Robert Young who is 15 years old was placed into an LD classroom at the beginning of this

school year at Amundsen High School on Damen and Foster. His parents were never asked permission to have him put there. He has normal intelligence and has displayed an advanced skill and interest in auto and other types of mechanics. He does almost all of the maintenance and repairs throughout the building he lives in with his parents.

Because of a childhood disease, Robert developed a speech defect at an early age which has improved tremendously through speech therapy over the past several years. However, he cannot read or write very well, primarily because he was not educated properly in grammar school. The counselors and teachers at Amundsen placed him in the LD classroom because they felt he couldn't keep up with the regular curriculum. Robert felt that the LD classroom was not dealing with his individual needs. He wanted to learn basic reading, writing and math skills and along with this get some specialized training in auto mechanics so that he would be prepared to get a job when he graduated from school. The courses he had in the LD classroom didn't provide for any of this.

Robert's mother had him evaluated at the Courtney School for his I.Q. and general learning ability. This was followed up by a hearing at the Courtney School where it was to be determined if he would remain in the same program. Robert was required to be at the hearing, a humiliating experience no one should be put through, especially someone who is 15 years old.

The hearing was attended by a school nurse, an educational clinician, a psychologist, a doctor, a social worker, a speech and language clinician, a school counselor and Robert's teacher. Each of these "professionals" gave a report on their evaluation of Robert. Citing statistics and labeling Robert a "problem child," it was determined that he would have to stay where he was.

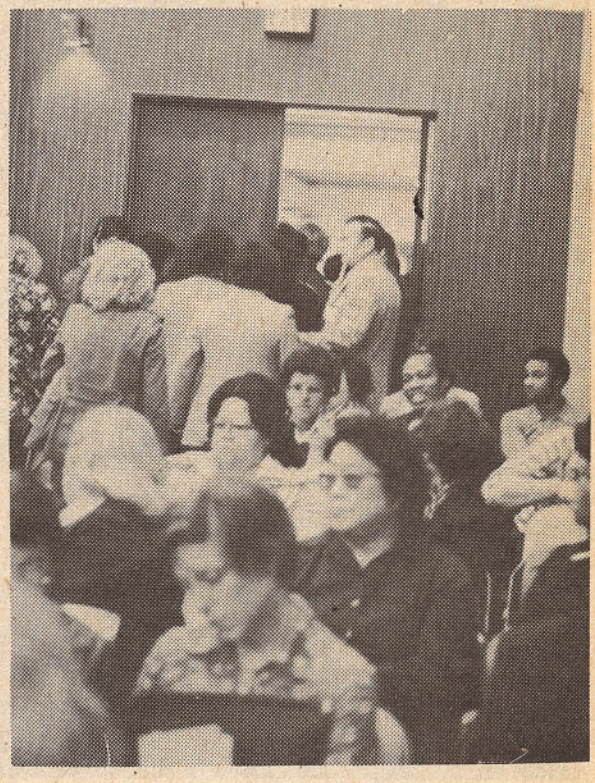
Robert was told that Amundsen would not be able to give him training in auto mechanics, nor could they refer him or transfer him into a similar program at another school. All they would do is promise to get him into a work-study program next year but said they could make no guarantee as to what kind of work he would be doing.

Robert and his family did not accept his offer. As Mrs. Young put it; "My son deserves better than this, and I am going to make sure he gets it, even if I have to work two jobs to put him through private school."□

S.U.B.S. Protests $17.7 Million In School Cutbacks

(Chicago, Ill.) More than 200 people, many of them angry substitute teachers and parents from throughout the city, attended the February 23 meeting of the Chicago Board of Education to protest cutbacks of $17.7 million voted on by the board that day. The approved cutbacks are part of Superintendent Hannon's report — "Reduction of the Projected Shortage in the Operating Funds for 1976-77 - Phase II" — and will most likely result in closing public schools three days early in June and eliminating after-school programs.

According to S.U.B.S. (Substitutes United for Better Schools), an organization of more than 200 Chicago substitute teachers, the cutbacks voted on by the board on February 23 were the subject of secret meetings held by Hannon on February 9 and 10 with public school principals throughout the city. Local PTA's, school councils and community groups were never informed of the meetings, a grievance expressed by representatives at the board meeting.



More than 200 angry people attended February's Board of Education meeting.

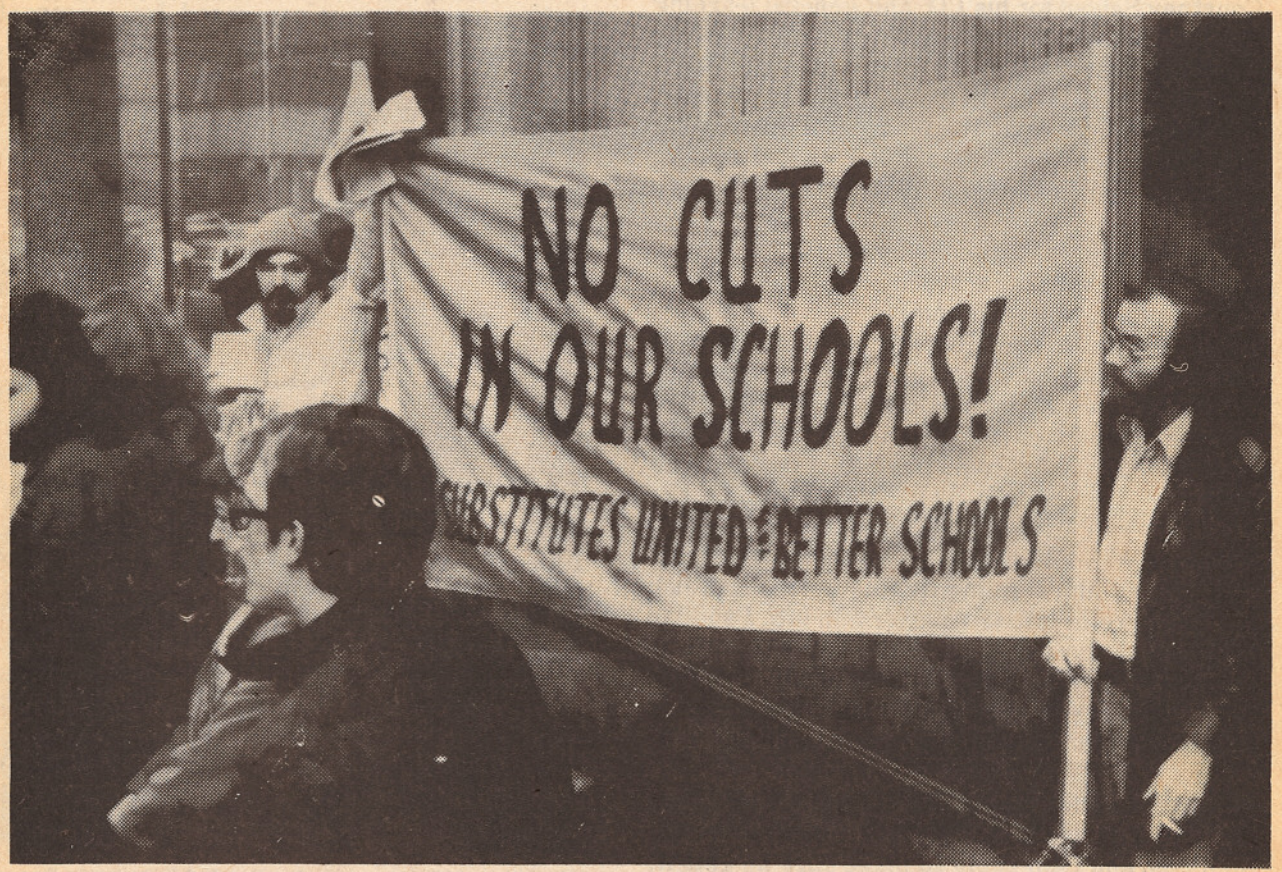
While more than 20 groups signed up to speak at the board meeting, only 10 were allowed to make presentations. In addition, more than 100 people were denied entry to the "public" part of the meeting which began at 1 p.m. Police and security guards used force to keep the crowd from gaining entry. Finally, due to pressure, small numbers were eventually allowed into the meeting.

Speakers included representatives of S.U.B.S., Casa Atzlan, District 23, Metro High School Parents' Council, Pilsen, and other community organizations, local PTA's and school councils, primarily from Chicago's Black and Latino communities. In addition to denouncing the cutbacks and closed-door meetings to plan them held by the administration, some groups also demanded more parent and community participation in the selection of school principals.

While Hannon claims that reductions are aimed to "trim fat" in the school budget and "maintain a full school year," an examination of the "facts" in the $17.7 million cutbacks passed at the February 23 meeting present a different picture; the cuts eliminate the social center program, summer swimming pools and substitutes ($1 million). Positions that allow for extra-curricular activities have also been significantly cut ($1 million). $9 million is saved by closing school three days early and laying off all staff. $500,000 is cut by laying off all year-round school workers for one extra day.

S.U.B.S. charges that these cuts continue the Board of Education's "plan" to reduce quality classroom instruction. A good example is that this winter, city classrooms went uncovered because the board has drastically cut hiring of substitutes to save the $40 per day they are paid. One day this winter (January 10) when a snowstorm caused 2,000 regular Chicago teachers to be absent, the board's director of personnel ordered that calling of substitutes be stopped after 500 had been called. Thousands of schoolchildren who made it to school that day were left without instructors.

As *KEEP STRONG* goes to press, the Chicago Teachers Union is still threatening a strike if Chicago public schools close three days early in June. While acting mayor Bilandic is talking with CTU President Robert Healey and officials of the Board of Education, a formal strike vote by the CTU is scheduled for March 31.□



Irate substitute teachers and parents from throughout the city picketed the Board of Education meeting where $17.7 million in cuts was voted.

RANK 'N FILE

"We've Stuck Together And We've Won"

(New York City, N.Y.) In 1971, the N.Y.C. Off-Track Betting Corporation was formed, a so-called "public benefit corporation," to provide the faltering economy of the city of New York with a new source of revenue. Since that time, OTB has generated more than $400 million in revenues for the city and state, on a total handle of more than $3 billion in money bet. In fiscal year 1975-76, OTB achieved record levels of handle and revenue, making it one of the few municipal institutions which actually makes money for the city.

The men and women who work as pari-mutuel clerks for the OTB, however, have not been given any share in this prosperity. These people are members of Local 2021 of District Council 37, the gargantuan municipal union of N.Y.C. Their efforts to win a good contract had been consistently frustrated by the president of the local, Shiekie Schneider, and the head of DC 37, Vic Gotbaum.

A small but determined rank and file movement in 2021 organized to challenge the union leadership and to fight for the demands of the workers. Chief among these was for a change of title, a demand which the union leadership had refused to put on the table with management.

When OTB was formed, the pari-mutuel clerks were given the already existing city job title of cashier, which lumped them together with about five thousand other workers scattered throughout the various city agencies. The effect of this has been that the salaries of OTB workers have been kept at *half* that of non-city workers in similar jobs at the racetrack. The particular demands of the OTB workers were lost in the anonymity of the huge municipal union, with the result that in the last contract with the city, OTB employees were forced to take cuts in salary and benefits negotiated by DC 37, despite the fact that the local as a whole had voted against the contract. The demand for change of title would give OTB employees a separate title of "betting cashier" which recognizes their uniqueness and allows them to negotiate on their own.

The men and women who work as pari-mutuel clerks for the Off-Track Betting Corporation have not been given any share of their more than $400 million in revenues.

The OTB rank and file committee began to publish a four page newsletter called "Long Shot," which attempted to explain to workers the tactics of the union leadership and to call for their ouster. The rank and file committee organized a slate of candidates to run in union elections and succeeded in defeating Shiekie Schneider for the union presidency, while electing one of their own candidates, Robert DeMartini, as vice president of the union. When DC 37 leadership still failed to respond to the demands of the local, the members, organized by the rank and file committee, voted not to pay the latest dues increases demanded by the parent union. Only then did DC 37 put the change of title on the table. At a collective bargaining session on February 11, 1977, the city of New York agreed to the change of title demand.

Said one OTB employee, when she heard the news, "It's amazing. I never believed we could take on the city and DC 37 and win. But we stuck together, and we won. Amazing!"□

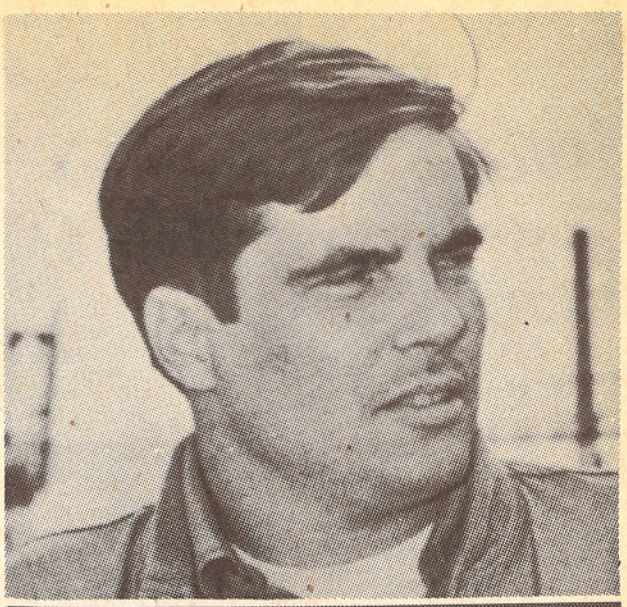
Union Rebel Charges Fraud In Steelworker Elections

(Chicago, Ill.) Rebel labor leader Ed Sadlowski charged fraud and refused to concede defeat last month in the United States Steelworkers Union election.

However, succeeding I.W. Abel, the architect of a no-strike agreement with the nation's steel producers, apparently will be Lloyd McBride, his hand-picked successor.

Sadlowski's campaign highly upset the conservative AFL-CIO leadership, its president, George Meany, as well as the nation's industry leaders. The Chicago-raised steelworker pledged to abolish the no-strike agreement, decentralize the power of the 1.4 million-member union, and in his words, "take the union back for the workers."

The United Steelworkers of America, under the leadership of Abel, entered into an arrangement called the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with the nation's steel producers in 1973. Under this pact, the union's



Ed Sadlowski (above), who ran as an insurgent in the Steelworkers' recent election, highly upset AFL-CIO boss George Meany (below).

right to strike was signed away for a mere bonus per man of $150 to its members.

Also, through the policies Joint Productivity Boards (composed of union officials and company officers) established by Abel, job combinations, speed-ups and forced overtime have resulted in the permanent loss of 65,000 jobs and 275,000 steelworkers laid off.

Sadlowski began his campaign in September, 1976, with stiff opposition coming from the hierarchy of the United Steelworkers and the AFL-CIO.□

Reprinted from The Black Panther

FIGHTING CITY HALL

Milwaukee Masterplan: "It's A War"

(Milwaukee, Wisc.) One day after a *Milwaukee Journal* editorial urged low-income families to "move elsewhere," and the same day the Common Council sent its third year application for $13,383,000 in Community Development Act funds to Washington, promising more demolition and less services to central city neighborhoods, liberal Eastside Alderwoman Sandra Hoeh introduced a proposal to develop eight acres of riverfront park which would in turn attract private development of 425 units of middle and upper-income housing on the city's wealthy Eastside.

While the city estimates that nearly 28,000 families are surviving in substandard and deteriorating housing, and the general renters' vacancy rate remains a low 3.8 per cent, no major initiatives have been taken by this city in recent years to construct a reasonable number of low-income apartments.

Many community leaders feel that this is not out of character with the overall plan of Mayor Henry Maier to depopulate the most oppressed Black and Latino communities by denying needed services, driving people out and bulldozing. The recent closing of Misericordia Hospital is cited as an example. The only Black-owned hospital in the state closed its doors in February because it was bankrupt, while the city stood by and watched.

Mayor Henry Maier

Although Ms. Hoeh's proposal did not openly state how much public money would be spent, critics of the plan believe it would be considerable. Supporters, including the *Milwaukee Journal*, point out that the plan would not require that any building be demolished, while angry community residents respond that thousands of houses have been and are daily being bulldozed and the land left vacant.

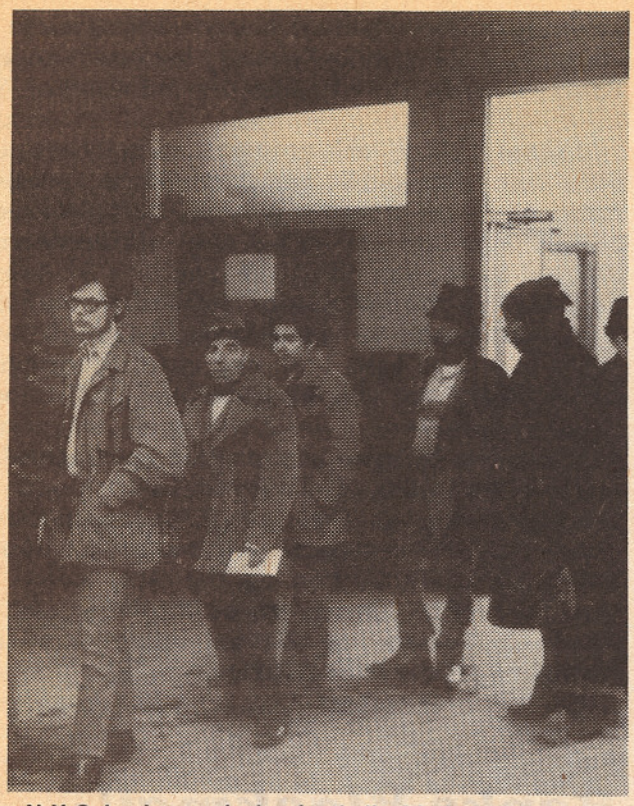
Milwaukee ISC coordinator Marc Zalkin summarized the feeling of many community people this way: "It's a war. They drew a line around the central city. No money is going inside that line unless it's for destruction. On the other side of the line, they're pouring cream into the coffee. They call it 'eliminating blighting influences and improving residential environment.' "□

Banks Blackmail N.Y.C.

(N.Y.C., N.Y.) Charging that the eleven leading banks in New York City that make up the New York Clearing House Association coordinating committee have attempted to blackmail the city government, representatives of four organizations have filed suit in federal court.

Asking for an injunction on all federal deposits in the defendant banks, the suit charges that the banks blackmailed the city, to restrain interstate commerce by threatening in December that unless the city agreed to withdraw specific city affirmative actions under executive order 71 or grant exemptions to the defendant banks that they wouldn't enter into any contracts for specialized financial and data processing services. This would affect city payrolls and direct welfare payments, as well as normal banking services provided to the city and the future sale of municipal bonds.

The Emergency Financial Control Board, the Municipal Assistance Corporation and the leading financial advisors and economic planners have all agreed that one of the main problems facing the city is the "loss of a financial tax base" and the high unemployment rate. To relieve this situation and as a result of pressure applied on local politicans by the community, N.Y.C.



N.Y.C. banks are playing football with the unemployed as they try to blackmail the city government.

developed its own affirmative action guidelines which would provide jobs for unemployed and underemployed minorities and women. It is these guidelines which have led to bankers' actions.

The New York Clearing House has declared that the affirmative action program is duplicative and unnecessary. The banks threatened to cut their business interactions with the city unless they were exempted from the city's affirmative action program which stipulates that the banks provide a fair percentage of jobs for women and members of minority groups. Further, they made it clear that they would not cooperate with or participate in negotiations around any projects unless certain guidelines on affirmative action are dropped or modified.

Herbert Hill, Labor Secretary for the N.A.A.C.P. denounced the banks' position: "This action taken by the banks is part of a nationwide attempt by banking and industrial interests to destroy the comprehensive body of legal prohibitions against employment discrimination. All evidence makes it very clear indeed that federal regulations are not enforced and some of the worst discriminators are getting off scott free."

The difference between federal-state regulations governing affirmative action and the city's affirmative action program is that the federal-state regulations are very loose and allow for contractors and other employers to get around them. The city's affirmative action program stipulates that banks and other city contractors commit themselves in writing to offer a fair number of jobs to women and members of minority groups.

According to Darryl E. Green, director of the city's Labor Services Bureau, up until now the banks have violated the affirmative action clause and have not submitted a plan, as the law requires. He stated that the city would not sign any contracts with the banks "until the banks comply with the executive order governing this area."

It is not clear yet how the situation will be resolved, but its resolution will have a tremendous effect on the lives of millions of New Yorkers.□

Harold Washington For Mayor

(Chicago, Ill.) Joining literally hundreds of organizations and individuals, the Intercommunal Survival Committee last month endorsed the quickly growing Chicago mayoral campaign of Senator Harold Washington. ISC Coordinator Slim Coleman cited Washington's outstanding record in the State Senate and his commitment to fighting the death grip which the "ex-Daley machine" has on Chicago's communities and neighborhoods.

"It is time," said Coleman, "that we in the poor and working White communities put the question of a person's race or color out of our minds and remember that the enemies of our enemies are our friends. The other candidates running for mayor of Chicago all represent the same policies that are driving jobs from our cities and destroying housing and education in our communities. Harold Washington represents a real alternative and gives us the opportunity to have our voice heard in this election."

The Washington campaign sprang to life in the last week before the filing date for petitions after the machine's trickery had almost prevented a people's unity candidate from arising. The incredible speed with which the successful petition campaign was mounted, offices opened and a full-scale campaign machinery established

Progressive mayoral candidate, Harold Washington.

began a momentum that has only increased each day as powerful community forces and progressive independents, opposed to the "11th Ward tyranny" which has run this city for twenty years, put their shoulders to Washington's campaign effort. As this issue of *KEEP STRONG* goes to press, endorsements, including the prestigious Independent Voters of Illinois, are pouring in, and Washington is speaking all over the city, committing himself to turning Chicago right side up and making it the city that works for *all* its people.□

An Outstanding Record

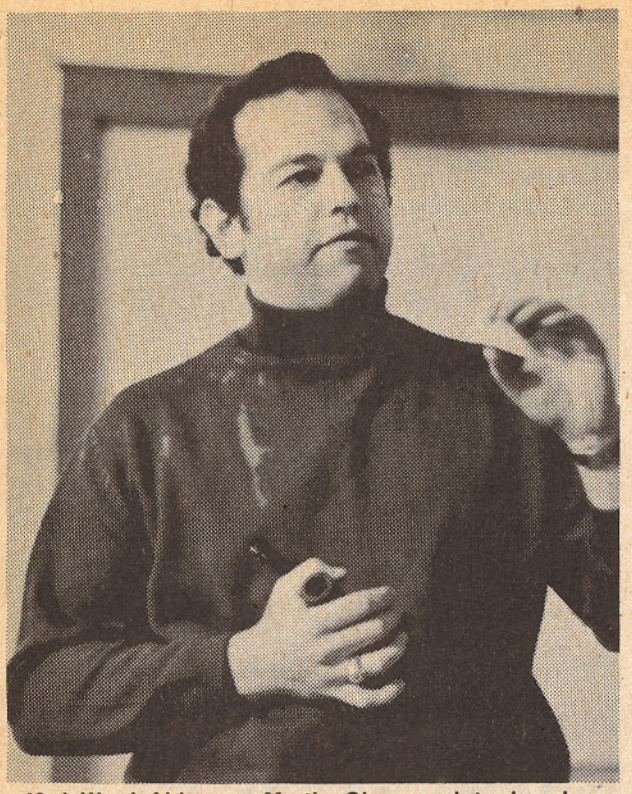
- Led the fight for fairness and justice in Illinois Senate.
- Sponsored law to protect witnesses in criminal trials and gain compensation for victims.
- Sponsored bill making Rev. Martin Luther King's birthday a state holiday.
- Won the six-year-long fight to create Fair Employment Practices law for Blacks and women.
- Supported Equal Rights Amendment.
- Fought against police abuse and illegal search and seizure.
- Opposed welfare cuts, worked for job training and full employment.
- Leads effort for increased pension benefits and better working conditions for public employees.
- Investigated fires and abandoned buildings in the neighborhoods.
- Obtained increased funds for minority businesses.
- Honored by: Operation PUSH; Independent Voters of Illinois; AFL-CIO; Illinois Young Democrats; Disabled American Veterans; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Fair Employment Practices Commission; Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Oberman Offers Bill To Abolish Police Spying

(Chicago, Ill.) At the February 22 meeting of the Chicago City Council, Alderman Martin J. Oberman (43rd Ward) introduced a Political Rights Protection Ordinance which would eliminate any special spying unit in the Chicago Police Department. This proposal establishes "stringent guidelines" for extraordinary situations where surveillance is necessary to detect criminal activity. The ordinance was referred to the Committee on Police, Fire, Civil Service, Schools and Municipal Institutions.

Similar to the Political Rights Protection Act prepared by the Center for National Security Studies (see *KEEP STRONG*; Feb., 1977), and currently being circulated throughout the country, the ordinance was prepared by Oberman in consultation with Chicago lawyers and organizations currently involved in a federal lawsuit charging the Chicago Police Department "red squad" with illegal police spying.

Citing the history of police spying in Chicago, Oberman charges that the "goal and end product is political and repressive, with no legitimate or constitutional law enforcement purpose." Oberman calls for total abolition of police spying on people for political beliefs and activity.



43rd Ward Alderman Martin Oberman introduced an ordinance to limit police spying.

Oberman's bill would remove intelligence activity from special units within the Chicago Police Dept., such as the red squad. Use of undercover agents or paid informants by the police would require approval from a civilian agency, the police board, and would be limited to 30 days. Extensions must be specifically authorized and surveillance would be allowed only if the police prove "probable cause" that evidence of criminal activity would be obtained. Oberman suggests that the police board, originally established to regulate the CPD, should control intelligence activities.

Overall supervision of police investigative work would be delegated to a new office, the inspector general, to be appointed by the corporation counsel. Under the proposed law, the inspector general would audit all police intelligence work and report to the city council and public twice a year.

Other highlights of the ordinance include:

•Investigation lasting more than 30 days must be authorized by the superintendent of police. Extensions beyond 90 days must be authorized by the corporation counsel.

•Investigations of planned public demonstrations must be authorized by the mayor and are limited to logistics about the demonstration (time, date, place). Police are prohibited from taking photos of demonstrations or planning meetings.

•Detailed reports of each surveillance must be made to the police board. Records on how surveillance was conducted and information gathered shall be kept under seal for 10 years. Illegally gathered information shall be destroyed.

•Persons who are target of any surveillance investigation must be notified and will have access to the files.

The bill prohibits the city of Chicago from cooperating with any other local, federal, state or private agency or organization to conduct political surveillance. It would be illegal for the city to use its money or other funds to conduct intelligence activities outlawed by the ordinance. According to the Special Grand Jury Report on Police Spying (1974), a congressional study found that between 1972-74, $779,000 of federal funds went to the Police Dept., intelligence division. Finally, city officials and employees who violate the ordinance are subject to criminal penalties, civil damages and removal from office.

A congressional study found that between 1972-74, $779,000 in federal funds went to the police department, intelligence division.

Oberman is calling for early public hearings on and passage of the ordinance. According to the progressive alderman, Superintendent Rochford is expected to issue guidelines soon for intelligence activities within the Chicago Police Department.□

MASTERPLAN: THE HOUSING CONSPIRACY

KEEP STRONG has in past issues presented the masterplan and shown the general conspiracy of the federal, state and local governments to destroy the Black and oppressed communities, moving the people from the inner city. The secrecy and cover-up of the masterplan is maintained by government officials and high class developers who keep their hands clean by working through private agents. These smaller landlords and owners may or may not know the long range plan, but they carry out the actual work of destroying existing neighborhoods. These "bleeders and destroyers" perpetuate the day to day misery of tenants who are forced to live in the most wretched housing conditions. Following, *KEEP STRONG* presents an in depth study of one particular group of bleeders and destroyers who operate in Uptown as part of the overall conspiracy to destroy this low-income community.

The group is made up of five main owners or bleeders — Charlie Roberts, Joe Sadacca, John Schmiegal, Roy Fraze and Frank Vivaqua, most of whom live in the suburbs. They are the real perpetrators of the local conspiracy. Each owns or controls several buildings in this area. They, in turn, hire certain community residents to act as "landlords," men who actually manage the buildings for a maximum short term profit while they complete the task of deterioration and destruction started by the higher level owners. Additionally, many Chicago banks play an important role in this whole process. Here in Uptown, the banks most often involved in helping this group of men are: the First National Bank of Skokie, LaSalle National Bank, Grunwald Savings and Loan and the Exchange National Bank which is notorious for its real estate ventures. The final ingredient, insuring success for the bleeders, is the development plan or development project — which here in Uptown, has included an urban renewal program, a city college and several proposed shopping centers.

The development plan for Uptown has included a city college. Above, Mayor Daley and other city officials attended a ground breaking.

The destruction of the building at 4448 N. Magnolia represents a common example of the housing conspiracy to destroy low-income housing in the inner city so oppressed people will have to move out. Above are four top corporate executives, all members of the Chicago Central Area Committee Board of Directors. These are the men behind Chicago's Masterplan. Clockwise, they are: Thomas Ayers, Commonwealth Edison; Robert Drevs, Peoples Gas Company; Elmer Nicholson, CNA Financial Corporation; and John Perkins, Continental Illinois National Bank.

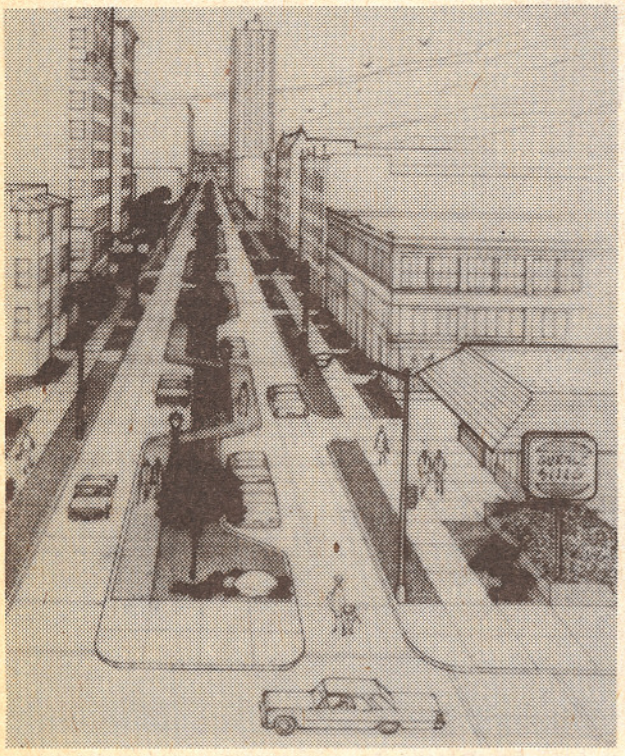
Roberts and friends have been directly involved in at least 11 buildings in the Uptown community which have been either burned to the ground, put under demolition order, or are in dangerously poor condition. In order to illustrate how this conspiracy ring operates, a closer look at one building, 4448 N. Magnolia, provides a clear picture of what is going on.

Title to the building was held by a Mr. Slutzky until just more than two years ago. During his ownership of the building, the property was kept in fairly decent shape. Yet, with the construction of a new college and the city's push to turn Uptown into a "thriving" middle class community, land values in the area began skyrocketing. The lot alone at 4448 N. Magnolia was becoming almost as valuable as the lot plus the building. The destruction of 4448 then began. The object was to squeeze out the most profits for as long as possible, then get rid of the building without ever being legally liable for it, and finally, retain control for a final sale to the developer.

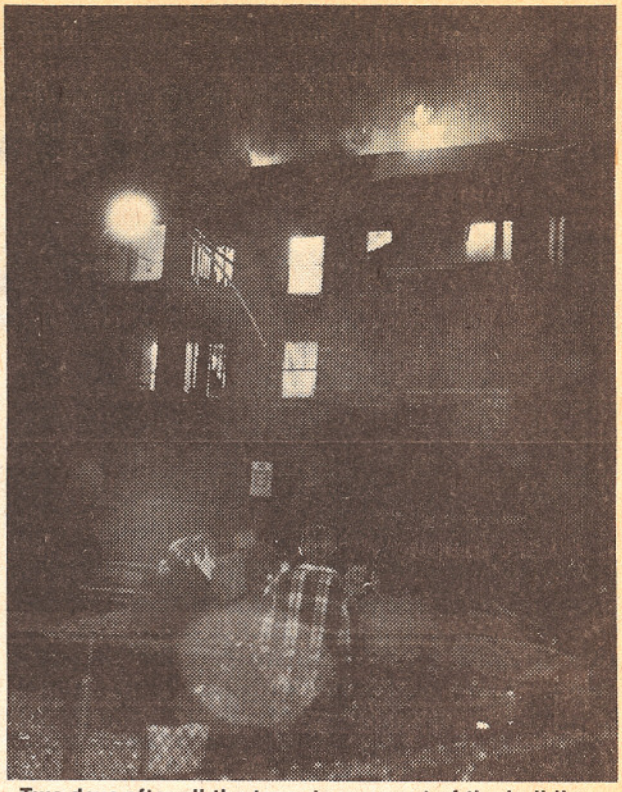
For Slutzky, the first step was to transfer ownership without losing his control over some of the profits and all of the benefits from a prospective sale to the developers. This was accomplished by setting up a secret land trust with the First National Bank of Skokie. In this deal, only a trust number appeared on the title, hiding the real owners' names — Slutzky and Charlie Roberts, the main bleeder. During the next period, Charlie Roberts acted as landlord of the building for a short period of time. As owner, he religiously collected the rents, making his small payment to the bank and utility companies, ignoring any repairs or improvements, and just as religiously pocketing his monthly profits of $400-$500. Needless to say, the building declined rapidly, as broken windows stayed broken,

clogged up plumbing stayed clogged up, plaster continued to fall, and the roach and rat population continued to grow.

Eventually, it came time for the city building department to enter the picture. Mounting code violations soon forced Roberts into building court. It was time to sell the building. Roberts sold it to John Schmiegal by a Purchase Agreement. This was done with very little exchange of money. Schmiegal merely paid the secret trust (Slutzky and Roberts) a large part of the rents each month, kept the rest for himself and took over all other rights and liabilities of the building owner. He then continued the same process that Roberts had started, stalling the courts with the phony sale, ignoring tenant complaints for needed repairs, delaying payments to the utility companies and collecting rents and security deposits regularly. The city finally caught up with him, so Schmiegal arranged for his own Purchase Agreement, "selling" the building to a Mr. Cantrell. Cantrell, a community resident, took on the primary responsibility of destroying the building. He got most of his profits from pocketing utility bill money, "misplacing" security deposits, renting unlivable apartments, etc. This period was marked by a high turnover of tenants because of the lack of heat, no hot water, harassment and other problems which made the building generally unlivable.



East Wilson Avenue Comprehensive Beautification Plan.



Two days after all the tenants were out of the building, 4448 N. Magnolia burned down.

As the city moved closer to demolition court, Cantrell suddenly disappeared. On paper Schmiegal got the building back and overnight "sold" it again to a young man from the neighborhood. His job was to get all the tenants out of the building. The task was done quickly. Just three weeks later, the main boiler was mysteriously destroyed by a pick-ax; tenants were forced to move in sub-zero weather because of the emergency created by no heat. Two days later, after all the tenants were out, the building burned.

Now the land is available. The fire insurance can be used to pay off all the cronies who helped with the destruction, and the real owners are free to sell to the developer of their choice. After two years of pulling the maximum profit out of the area and refusing to make any investment in the building or the community, the owners accomplished the destruction of the building and still can sell at the same price they would have gotten when the destruction began.

The situation is not unique to Uptown nor to the city of Chicago. In every city where a masterplan exists to disperse the poor communities, you will find the "bleeders and destroyers" preparing these communities for the transition to the middle and upper-middle class.□

Coal Mining in America A History of Struggle

"You talk about 'Roots,' well, that reminded me of my childhood days...My daddy was blackballed by the coal companies because he stood up for the union. My husband was killed in the mines, and the family was run out of the coal camp because none of us worked for the coal company after his death. Yes, we've been walked on, put down and pushed around; it's time for us to fight for our rights."

So spoke Irene Roberts on Sunday, February 6, 1977 as over 250 people packed the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall at 1222 W. Wilson to hear the Chicago Area Black Lung Association's presentation — "Coal Mining in America — A History of Struggle."

The many hardships and sufferings of the coal miners and their families were described vividly by CABLA members as they gave their personal accounts of trying to survive in the mines and afterwards trying to live with the dreaded black lung disease.

"Most people who've never been in a mine do not realize the suffering that these men have had

Over 250 people packed the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall to hear the Chicago Area Black Lung Association's presentation.

Ruby Lee Southern (right) and Irene Roberts: "Yes, we've been walked on, put down and pushed around; it's time for us to fight for our rights."

to go through. My father worked from sun-up to sun-down for $1.50 a day. He often worked on his hands and knees in two feet of water. The dust was so thick, he couldn't see two feet in front of him. The men tried to organize a union to make things better — my father was one of those who stood up for this. He was fired and blackballed from every mine in the state. He walked and walked looking for a job until he had holes in his shoes. During this time the only money the family saw was what he could get scrounging scrap iron and selling it to a junkyard.

"Me and my husband got married when he was 19 in 1938. In 1949 my husband was killed in a gas explosion at the Logan County Coal Corporation's mine in Lundale, West Virginia. After he died I was told that I had to move from the company-owned coal camp, because it was only for working miners. The company came one day and evicted us. We had no place to go and had to stay with friends for years."

Sarah Dotson described the effects of black lung disease upon her husband and on her whole family:

"After my husband got sick, things got worse and worse until it became impossible to live with him. He was always gasping for breath. Every night I had to pound on his back to keep him from suffocating. He became very irritable. The kids weren't allowed to put on the T.V., the radio, or even have friends over because even the slightest noise made him very upset. I couldn't even go to work anymore. He was so nervous and trembling it just tore the family up, forced us to separate so the kids could have a decent life. He tried to keep working, but finally they told him at Electro-Metals in Chicago that he had to either get better or they'd fire him — so he went on sick leave, and within a month he was dead."

The somber and obviously truthful statements of the Association members had a very deep effect on the audience which ranged from Appalachian children from Uptown to concerned and progressive professionals, and there were many questions as to what was being done to compensate victims and improve conditions in the coal fields.

Bill Worthington, regional president of the Black Lung Associations explained the current situation. He pointed out that this country had lagged 20 years behind Britain in even recognizing the existence of coal workers' pneumoconiosis. Finally, in 1969, after the Farmington mine disaster, a nationwide strike of coal miners, and the organization of Black Lung Associations with some 30,000 members, the miners were able to secure passage of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. It provided for compensation for the victims of black lung disease, for the implementation of dust control and other improvements in safety conditions and for coal miners' respiratory disease clinics.

Despite the milestone importance of the 1969 law in the fight for occupational and preventive health care, real implementation of the act has been prevented by the selfish interests of government bureaucrats, coal operators and the medical establishment. Thousands of claims for

compensation have been held up and denied because of government refusal to use honest and objective medical data which would show how widespread black lung really is. Charging that the government recognizes and contracts only those radiologists who will see black lung on no more than 5% of the X-rays they read, Worthington noted how this had become a built-in incentive for doctors to be biased because of the prestige and money they can get from the government.

He pointed out how inadequate chest X-rays and breathing tests are in measuring disability in coal miners. It's also true that medical examiners' and hearing officers' ignorance of actual working conditions affects their judgement as to whether a man is disabled from working in the mines.

Regional president of the Black Lung Associations, Bill Worthington.

Worthington proposed that all people handling claims should be required to spend time in the coal mines and urged everyone to support the changes in medical criteria in the new black lung bill supported by both the Black Lung Associations and the United Mine Workers of America.

On the subject of current conditions in the mines, Worthington showed that the safety measures and conditions required by law are far less strict than those required in other countries where black lung has been significantly reduced. Even those limited measures have become a farce, since most of the required equipment is

Chicago Area Black Lung Association President, Lawrence Zornes.

scarcely even used — usually only when inspectors make their announced visits.

Worthington stressed that black lung disease and other hazards could be very greatly reduced, but only if the people unite to see to it. We cannot leave it to politicians, doctors and lawyers because they all have their own special interests. He urged people to realize that the issue is part of the overall fight for nationwide unity around a program of people's preventive health care.

An appreciative audience then heard reports by CABLA chairman Lawrence Zornes and steering committee member Naomi Blackburn on some of the activities of CABLA and on the need for the community to support CABLA's efforts, financially and otherwise.

Delicious chicken dinners including fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, bread and butter, soda and home-baked cakes were sold to help CABLA meet its expenses, while the film, "Salt of the Earth" was shown. The film, made in the 1950's, exemplified the struggle of miners and their wives in the southwest United States to win improvements in their working conditions. The successful struggle portrayed in this dramatic presentation encouraged the audience to continue their own struggle for survival and justice for ex-coal miners.□

"What Kind of Education Should Our Children Be Receiving?"

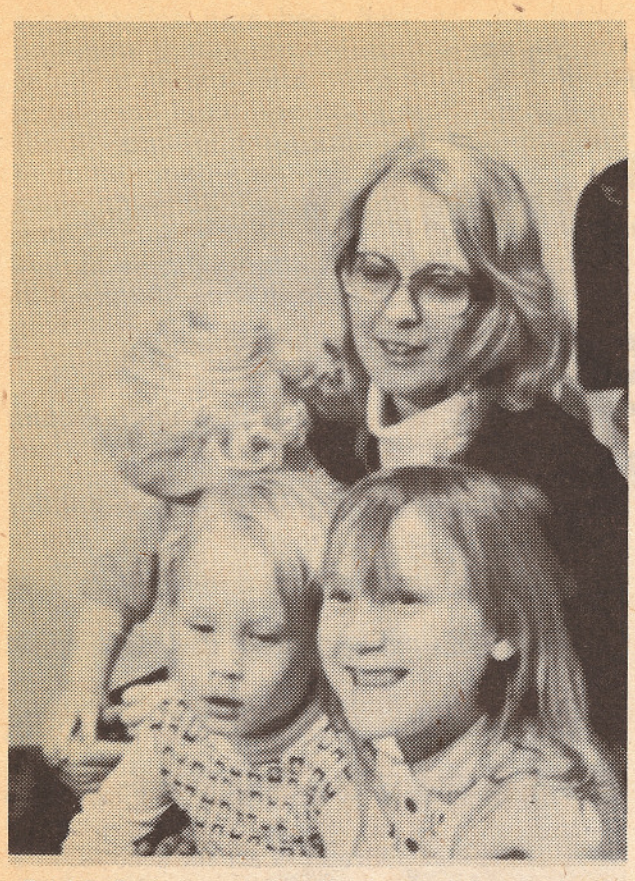
(Milwaukee, Wisc.) No one can deny that the most tragic victims of the masterplans for American cities are our children. Under fire hydrants in the summer and glued to T.V. sets in the winter, for want of adequate recreational programs, they find that the hardest and least rewarding part of their lives are the four, six, eight hours a day, five days a week that they must spend in school. Surely, it is common knowledge that central city youth do not receive an adequate education.

In spite of its "reform-minded" image, the city of Milwaukee is not any different. When Black, Latino and poor White families began to dominate the heart of the city, the school board and the city government, acting on the wishes of the city's large banks and corporations, responded by establishing two school systems — separate and unequal. Under the banner of "community schools," a segregated, impoverished and third-rate education has been forced on the youth of the poor communities, where in some cases 45 percent of the children are graduating from high school unable to read. Meanwhile, on the outskirts of the city and in the suburbs, bigger, brighter and better equipped schools have been opened. It didn't take long for 25% of the city's population to realize that the city policy is the same for education, police and fire protection, health care and garbage collection; neighborhoods in the heart of the city are denied needed services, taking a little more away each year in their drive to "clear out" the six aldermanic districts that surround downtown.

In the month of February, *KEEP STRONG* interviewed some community leaders from the Walker's Point neighborhood. The topic of discussion was "What kind of education should our children receive?"

Sofia Chamulak has lived in Milwaukee for 25 years. For 20 of those she worked as a second shift cleaning lady in the banks and insurance companies downtown. She worked to earn money to send her six children to Catholic schools. Mrs. Chamulak has been an active member of the Ukranian National Women's League of America. She is presently the President of the Milwaukee

Sofia Chamulak, an active member of the Ukranian National Women's League of America.



Patricia Bauer, member of the Board of Governors of the Inner City Development Project and a co-founder and organizer of the Southside Community Food Cooperative.

chapter of that organization.

"When we came to this country we had nothing. We could never afford to send our children to college. My husband only made enough money for us to live on. I sent all my children to Catholic schools. We felt that they offered better education and better discipline. The teachers in the public schools don't seem interested enough in the children. They don't pay enough attention to them. Once, I went to the public school when my son was going there. I saw the way the children were lined up in the office. They weren't learning anything. I just wanted something better for my children. I worked at night and took care of my family during the day. I cleaned offices for years to make the money for the schools. You must understand, it's not that I have anything against the public schools, but we feel that they are not doing what is necessary to prepare the children for their future."

Patricia Bauer is the mother of seven children. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Inner City Development Project and a co-founder and organizer of the Southside Community Food Cooperative.

"The children need to learn the basic things that they are going to have to deal with when they are adults. I don't think the teachers have enough interest in what is actually happening. We need more education on a one to one basis starting with the grade schools. I don't believe in grade schools. Not every child has the same ability in every area. But each child can learn and excell at some things. The way they run the schools doesn't recognize the potential of each child. My daughter Beth was kicked out of headstart after two weeks because they said she was hyperactive. They said they couldn't deal with her. She was told to leave the next three schools for the same reason. Why couldn't they give her something to do? If she would have been dealt with in kindergarten, then she wouldn't be having the problems that she is now — she isn't learning anything. I think all the way around, integration is a good idea. In more ways than one, Black people have a hell of a lot more on the ball that Whites. Whites can learn if they will let themselves. I think that all the schools in a community like this should be bilingual. The schools do not have the education of the children as the first goal. They put the children through all kinds of changes to get more money from the state. The only time they involve the parents is when there is a discipline problem. They have been sending Laurie to a special speech class and never even informed me. But all parents should have a voice in the education of their children."

Jackie Roginski has live in Walker's Point for twenty three years. Seven of her children have attended public schools on the southside of Milwaukee.

"There are so many suspensions. Dwayne has been suspended five times this year. The only time they call me is when he is in trouble. The teachers put in eight hours a day, and that's it. A lot of kids fall behind in the subjects, and some kids need extra help. But that doesn't mean they should be put in special classes. They called me to a conference at school about Tammy and threatened to suspend her. The homeroom teacher told me that she won't stay after school when he wants her to. What am I supposed to do, stay there with her? I thought that is what we are paying the teacher for. I don't think they take enough interest in the kids. Every child is an individual. Always the kids are wrong. I have yet to go to school and hear the teacher say, 'I made the mistake' or 'I was wrong.' My neighbor has two daughters that go to Allen Field School. They are five and nine years old. They have come home with lice in their hair five times in the last four months. Each time she has gotten rid of the

lice and complained to the school. Nothing is done. The nurse is only there one day a week. The children never had a problem like this until they started going to Allen Field.

"There have been a lot of incidents in the schools since the start of integration. There's a lot of politics involved in this thing, and they are pushing the kids too darn far. I don't think any child should have to go to school across town from where he lives unless he wants to. But all the schools should be run on an equal basis. Every parent has the right to have a direct voice in how their children's schools are run. This is just as true for Black and Latino families as White families."

Perhaps the clearest indication of oppressed communities' growing frustration with the public schools is the fact that only 10 percent of the registered voters participated in the February 15 school board primary. Many observers feel that the low turnout reveals a deepening mistrust and cynicism among most parents about their ability to really influence the school system. While the election should have offered the communities a real choice in the education, no such choice existed. Only three candidates were eliminated (two of them Nazi party members), leaving 12 people contending for six seats in the April election.

Jackie Roginski who has lived in Walker's Point for twenty three years, has had seven children attend Milwaukee public schools.

Many community leaders, fearing that integration has become a fashionable mask for liberals who are klansmen at heart, have begun to raise issues which touch the heart of the problems in the schools and must be addressed by each and every candidate before the election. Among these are:

Adjustment Centers — Their creation was a teachers union demand several years ago. The school adjustment center is the place where the teacher can send any child he or she can't handle. The principle of due process (the right to be heard and judged impartially) is ignored when a teacher wants to rid himself of a "problem." In the 1975-76 school year, 2,223 students were sent to these centers. Critics have referred to them as "dumping grounds for Blacks, Latinos and poor Whites."

Suspensions — An official report issued by the Organization of Organizations of May 27, 1976 listed 25,586 student suspensions in the Milwaukee public school system in the school year 1974-75. This represents nearly 25% of all students enrolled in the system. While predominantly Black schools contained only 25.3% of all students in the city, 45% of all suspensions occurred in these schools. This breaks down to 83 suspensions per school week in the Black community.

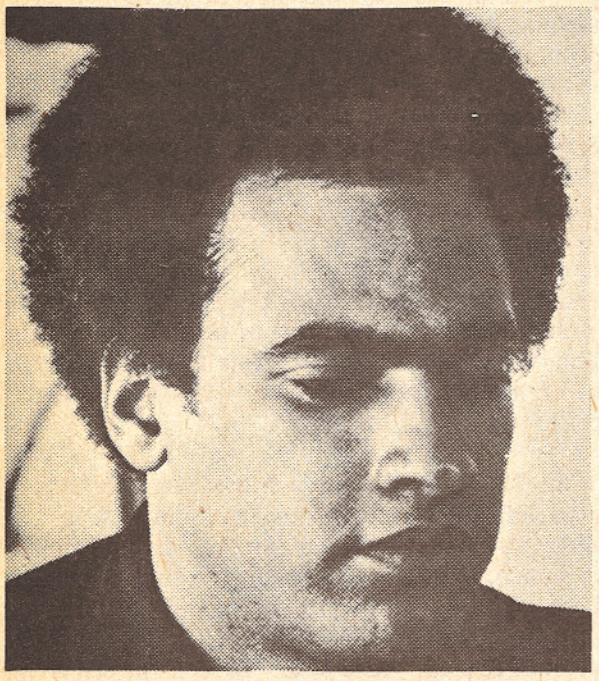
Education — Our children desperately need an education which gives them a true knowledge of themselves and their role in the present day society. Another report dated April 7, 1976 states that one out of every three students in the Milwaukee school system is below average in reading and math, and one out of two in predominantly Black schools is below average in the same areas. Across the city a full third of our high school graduates read very poorly or not at all.

This situation, alongside of continual threats of cutbacks, cut outs and rearrangements in the bilingual/bicultural program for Spanish-speaking youth, paints a depressing picture for many of our children. So long as the school system does not have the ability or desire to give 33 to 50% of our children the basic skills needed for survival, it cannot hope to give the children a more meaningful program that will encourage them to develop into active, self-reliant adults.□

FREE FOOD TO FREE HUEY

The distribution of 500 free bags of groceries was considered an appropriate event for the kick-off of a renewed national campaign to "Free Huey." Huey P. Newton, exiled Black Panther Party Leader who as co-founder of the Party in 1966 steered its course in the direction of serving the people and defined the original vision of the Black Panther Party, has been the target of local and federal harassment since its very beginning.

In the last 10 years the Black Panther Party has raised the demand for "Land, Bread, Housing, Education, Clothing, Justice, Peace and People's Community Control of Modern Technology" through concrete survival programs such as the Free Breakfast for Children Program, Free Medical Clinics, food and clothing programs and of course, the renowned model Oakland Community School. To many who could only see dark days ahead the possibilities for change in the future have become reality.



Huey P. Newton has been the target of local and federal harassment since the beginning of the Black Panther Party in 1966.

With this in mind, it is not surprising that John George, the first and only Black member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, described Huey P. Newton as the Kunta Kinte of Oakland, at the free food rally in West Oakland, California held in early February. In response to George's fond characterization of the exiled leader, the crowd, young and old, exploded in sustained applause and cheers, "right ons" rang in the air, smiling faces bobbed up and down, heads nodded in approval.

All in all, it was a fun time for the more than 500 people who came to Lowell Junior High School to participate in the free grocery giveaway—kind of like a gathering of friends.

Sponsored by the Committee for Justice for Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party, and the Party's Free Food Program, the 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. rally included: hundreds of bright yellow balloons, each inscribed with the red lettering "Justice for Huey": the giveaway of 50 "Free Huey" T-shirts; cakes, cookies, brownies and other pastries sold to benefit the the S.A.F.E. (Seniors Against A Fearful Environment) Program; a presentation by the dynamic Edmund Singers, a popular local gospel group; driving songs and music by Fudge/Emport-Export, a West Oakland rock group that, in the words of one teenager, "got the Dramatics down cold"; and, of course, the distribution of 500 free bags of groceries.

There were speeches, too, featuring Supervisor George and respected community leader Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party. Sensing the happy mood of the audience, both speeches were brief and extremely well-received.

George spoke first, commenting: "You know, a (Black Panther Party) lawsuit has been filed, and we in West Oakland, all over Oakland, have to

Alameda County Board of Supervisors member John George described Huey P. Newton as the Kunta Kinte of Oakland, California.

keep spotlighting what's going on...We're trying to get better housing. We need programs for senior citizens.

"Because Huey Newton, six, seven, 10 years ago, started these programs in Oakland, the police in this town wanted to run him out, didn't want him around. He is the Kunta Kinte of Oakland — you know that?

"They got the bullwhips out on him. They beat him on his back. They harassed him because he tried to feed the people. He tried to develop health programs for the people — that's why they don't want him around.

"Then the Black Panther Party had to file a lawsuit because the FBI, the CIA, the IRS, wanted to bring all their power to bear on Huey; so none of us would have the courage to stand up to the system. He's from West Oakland. We've got to do it!..."

Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party.

Elaine spoke just prior to the food distribution, and audience anticipation reached its peak as she approached the podium. Elaine commented:

"I think you ought to know something about why we're bringing back the slogan 'Free Huey.' Most of you probably already know that Huey Newton is in Havana, Cuba, at this time—he is in exile. But we intend to prove by June of this year that every charge brought against Huey is a false charge. We'll prove that and he'll be back before this time next year.

"A lot of people are going to be mad about that. It upsets the police of this city, but it's important that we, the people of this city, know that this is *our* city; that it does not belong to the power structure, but it belongs to us, the people.

Over 500 free bags of groceries were distributed.

"So we're going to give some groceries away in the name of Huey P. Newton, just so we'll remember who Huey Newton is. We're going to give some groceries to the people of West Oakland, and Huey's going to come back to West Oakland. It's not a whole lot of food, but what's important about the food is this: everyone of us has the right to eat.

"The point is, we don't have to go through any changes, any day of the week, to get food. And it's up to you, and me, together, to see to it that at no time do we have to go through waiting in long lines, paying high prices, for food that we ought to have because it's our right to eat...

"Power to the People—FREE HUEY!"□

Reprinted from The Black Panther

JOSE "PEPE" MEDINA

Struggling for Justice on Both Sides of the Border

Part 2

Below, KEEP STRONG *presents part 2 of a continuing series on the life of Jose "Pepe" Medina and his contribution to the struggle of Mexican people on both sides of the border. The U.S. government is currently attempting to deport this Mexican activist who has done a great deal to dramatize the plight of "undocumented workers" in this country.*

"The problems of the campesinos were numerous. I was able to see first hand how the countryside had been turned into military zones by the government. Ranchers, cowboys and the large landowners had banned together and were armed to force the campesinos from their land when they would refuse to sell it to the corporations and the large landowners. For example, there were approximately five million campesinos living in the mountains of Puebla, San Luis Potosi and Vera Cruz because they were forced from their land, even though many of them had documents from as far back as the Diaz regime that gave them the right to these lands. I was shown a document dated 1888 which indeed did give the right to these lands to the campesino. This land in particular was prime grazing area. They were going to use it to raise cattle to be sold to the U.S. The irony of this whole situation was that the campesinos were being called invaders when in reality the invaders were those who were trying to steal their land from them.

"Other problems which the campesinos faced

Jose "Pepe" Medina (far right) as he participated in the struggle in Mexico.

were that of forced migration to the city after they were forced from their lands. They had to come to cities such as Guadalajara, Monterrey or Mexico City in hopes of finding jobs. Encountering the worst living conditions, in the outskirts of the larger metropolitan areas, they lived like cavemen without water, electricity or sewerage. There were no social services or schools. When it rained, there was no drainage system, and many families feared that their children would drown in the overflow.

"In that same year we returned to the University to take up the struggle of the campesinos and the urban dwellers. We decided on a good tactic; they knew that going to the president did not solve anything, because many of them had already gone, and the president only turned this into a publicity campaign. He would have his pictures taken with them to try to prove that he was sincerely concerned with the plight of the campesinos and that he would do everything in his power to help. We proposed instead that they come to the University and lead a hunger strike, and we would begin to organize all sectors of our people to join in support of their demands—the right to their land. They agreed to this and began to arrive from different parts of the country.

"Of course, the authorities were not going to allow this to happen. About 3:00 a.m. the day that the first groups of campesinos arrived, the authorities sent in the police to force them from the University saying they had no right to be there. The students readily moved to protect the campesinos and inform the University that they were the ones who had no authority to be on the campus. We were successful in kicking out the authorities. The fact that the campesinos were able to come to the University campus and present their problem to the students proved to be a very rich experience. The students were better able to understand the realities of the campesinos' lives.

"We then decided that the problem was to be resolved at the University, and the government would have to come to the campus to meet with us, and they came. At a public assembly they were denounced for their demagoguery and false promises. They then proceeded to resolve the demands of the campesinos. When the news spread that they had won their demands, others came, and the same tactic was used, and the demands were met.

"The University authorities used their influence on those gorillas they had hired. They hired

Jose "Pepe" Medina

these thugs to try to kidnap the president of the University. Again, they used intense propaganda to discredit our struggle and justify the repression that was to follow, by calling us criminals and saying that we were armed.

"Our response was to concentrate all of our forces at the University and call for a hunger strike. During this period of time, we made contact with workers from cooperatives. The conditions of the cooperative workers were similar to those of the campesinos. For a long period of time they were able to remain autonomous in the production and sale of their goods. But from 1938 to 1973, the cooperatives fell into the hands of the capitalists, which in many cases forced the cooperative workers to sell their goods at lower prices which made it impossible for them to support their families. Many were forced to become urban dwellers. They united with us, and their demands along with the demands of the campesinos were our demands.

"Realizing this, the University used its apparatus to stop us. We were now threatening their very existence by supporting the demands of the University workers, cooperative workers, campesinos, urban dwellers and other workers. We had united all these forces to raise the problems of the people.

"Unfortunately, the University and government authorities reacted and began to arrest, torture and murder the leaders of this movement. It was at this point that I decided to leave Mexico and come to the United States."□

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

1500 Rally To Free AIM Activists

(Sacramento, Calif.) In what was one of the largest demonstrations in memory to support Native American rights, close to 1,500 people assembled here in mid-February to participate in a spirited and moving march and rally demanding the release of American Indian Movement (AIM) activists imprisoned throughout the United States.

In particular, the demonstration focused on the case of Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk, two AIM leaders falsely accused of murder in racist Ventura County. Related demands put forth at the rally included:

- Stop all FBI and repressive attacks on Indian people; and
- Support self-determination, sovereignty and independence for Indian Nations.

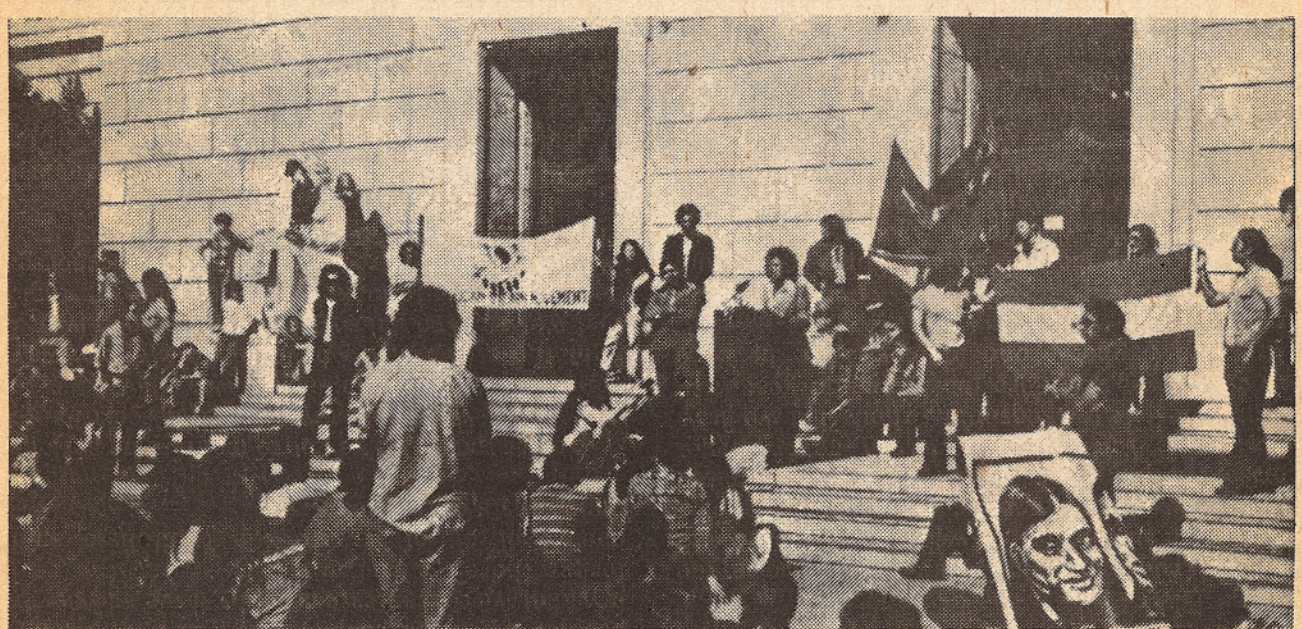
Also, organizers of the demonstration announced that they are going to begin a major drive to petition President Carter to establish a National Indian Judicial Review Committee to review the cases of many Native American people victimized by the American courts, and to grant pardons for those unjustly incarcerated.

Among the featured speakers at the rally, held in the Capitol Mall under warm and sunny skies, were Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party; Dennis Banks, national AIM leader and presently an instructor at D-Q University in Davis, California; Lehman Brightman, president of United Native Americans; and Ken Littlefish, an AIM leader from the Los Angeles area.

The first speaker for the two and half hour rally, Ken Littlefish, provided details on the Skyhorse/Mohawk case. Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk, Littlefish explained, have been in jail in Ventura County since October, 1974, facing the death penalty for charges that they murdered a taxi driver at a secret AIM encampment. Their case, he said, is part of the FBI conspiracy to destroy the American Indian Movement and its leaders.

Three people arrested at the scene of the murder, covered with blood and with a bloody knife in their possesion, have all been granted immunity, set up with jobs and government loans, all in exchange for their testimony against Skyhorse and Mohawk.

Making matters worse, Littlefish said, the racist Ventura Bar Association has seen fit to attempt to make a mockery of the case,



Elaine Brown addressing rally to free Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk where demands to stop all FBI and repressive attacks on Indian people and for self-determination, sovereignty and independence for Indian Nations were raised.

performing an inane skit, "The People vs. Tonto," at a recent banquet. Condemnation has been so heavy that all of the judges but one have disqualified themselves.

Respect and admiration for Black Panther Party chairperson Elaine Brown ran deep through the crowd during her speech:

"I would like to talk about Brothers like Johnny Spain, who is now facing life imprisonment because of all kinds of things that happened in the San Quentin 6 trial and the conspiracy on the part of the government against him. I would like to talk about Huey P. Newton and the fact that he is in exile for false charges.

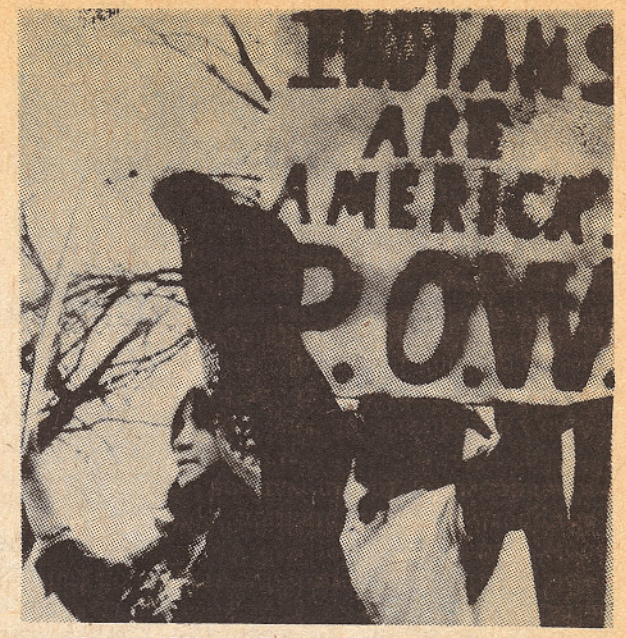
"But I think that we need to concentrate on issues. We can get together at other times to talk about other things. I'm here to talk about the freedom of Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk — that's what we need to concentrate our efforts on today.

"It's true that we're lucky to be here in the California sunshine, that we're not enclosed and incarcerated right here, right now, inside of a prison, but we are inside the prison of the United States of America and we can never forget that — despite the sunshine. I think that we have to recognize, therefore, our common goal with Brothers Skyhorse and Mohawk. We have to realize that.

"A lot of us have been watching a film and reading a book called *Roots*. A lot of Black people suffered on the crossing coming to this country when we never asked to come here. We've been suffering ever since. Well, the real roots of this country are full of blood and murder — the blood and murder, the rape, of the Indian people. And none of us can ever forget that. There will never be a way to forgive or understand the thousands, hundreds of thousands and literally millions of Indian people murdered by the government of this country.

"So it shouldn't come as any shock to us that two more Indian brothers are now in jail on false charges, and that some of the people that ought to be with us have turned against us to justify the government's constant plot to get rid of any people who stand up for what is rightfully theirs. This country belongs to the people who were here in the beginning, long before the syphillitic Europeans came...

"I think that it's important that we get together, Black people, Indian people, poor



Close to 1500 people attended the spirited rally.

people, oppressed people, throughout this country, that we concentrate issue by issue and never forget there's a larger issue — that the real enemy of all of us are the capitalists amd imperialists of this country.

"So, for today, we've got to make some serious moves. We can't allow a racist Bar Association to depict the situation in such a way. We have to fight those things, we have to fight every way that we can. And if it's with a peace pipe or with a gun, we'll have to make some decisions on that. We will have to free Mohawk and Skyhorse. Power to the People."

For Lehman Brightman, the "double standard of justice is a matter of life and death." For example, Brightman said, in South Dakota, Native Americans make up five per cent of the total population, yet number 30 to 40 per cent of the prison population. In Minnesota, Indian people are only one per cent of the population, yet are 20 to 25 per cent of the prison population.

Citing the attempts to foster the "psychological, cultural and physical genocide" of the Indian people, Brightman concluded by saying, "Every foot of this country is stained with Indian blood; and it's up to us to protect what so many others have died for. Remember, you're an Indian — and be proud of it."

Shortly later, the rally itself ended on a moving and significant note: the entire crowd joined hands in a Great Circle of Unity as Marina Garcia, a talented and gifted Chicana folk singer, led a huge chorus of "We Shall Overcome."□

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Zimbabwe: The Armed Struggle Is Proceeding Toward Victory

Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, upon his return from a recent trip to southern Africa, has proposed that a meeting be set up between the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front, the five African front line states (Tanzania, Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Mozambique), the United States and Great Britain to work out a plan for majority rule to be presented to Ian Smith, the president of white-ruled Rhodesia. The U.S. has taken this position in spite of the fact that the front line states in addition to the Organization of African Unity and most other African states have endorsed the Patriotic Front as the sole legitimate representative of the Zimbabwean people. The position of the Patriotic Front is clear: there can be no more negotiations with Ian Smith and his illegal white-ruled government; only through armed struggle will any just settlement be reached.

According to sources in Zimbabwe, Jimmy Carter has not changed U.S. policies or strategy in southern Africa. Instead, they say, this proposal is an attempt to give enough time to the Smith regime, which is clearly losing the war, to create and bring a Black puppet regime to power. To further support this theory Smith announced in Salisbury recently the formation of a new Black political party called the Zimbabwean United Peoples Organization (ZUPO). ZUPO is Smith's organization. It is made up of tribal chiefs who deserted their people and who have become part of the Smith government. Smith says that this is the only group he would be willing to negotiate with on the issue of majority rule.

Meanwhile, in Zimbabwe, Ian Smith has become more and more hard pressed. ZANU has stepped up its recruitment drive inside the country and has been highly successful, with the ranks of the people's army (ZIPA) growing daily. On the other hand, the Rhodesian army of Ian Smith is facing increasing problems. This is especially true of the Black puppet troops of the Rhodesian army. These Black troops comprise about 1/3 of the army and are suffering severe problems with mutiny, desertion and severe demoralization. The recent murder of seven White missionaries in Rhodesia, which Ian Smith originally tried to blame on ZIPA, was in fact carried out by Black troops in the Rhodesian army.

The ranks of the people's army in Zimbabwe are growing daily.

Informed sources in Zimbabwe state that it was the Selous Scouts, an elite force of Black troops in Smith's army, who committed these atrocities. On numerous occasions they have disguised themselves as guerrillas and on Smith's orders carried out atrocities to discredit ZIPA, or out of the shear frustration of fighting against their own people.

Attacks on Rhodesia by the Zimbabwean People's army are becoming more and more frequent and have caused Smith to declare a 50 mile buffer zone along the borders of both Mozambique and Botswana. According to Smith's order, any person caught in these zones will be immediately shot on sight. According to spokespersons from the liberation forces, the influx of freedom fighters has not been affected by this order. The struggle is proceeding towards victory!☐

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PSP Charges Statehood Conspiracy, Urges Support Of Dellums Bill

In a major statement published in *Claridad*, Juan Mari-Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), charges that Ford's announcement before leaving office (see *KEEP STRONG*; Jan., 1977), recommending that Puerto Rico become the 51st state, is part of an "annexation conspiracy" which goes back to the Spanish-American War of 1898 and the Jones Act of 1917. Mari-Bras states that the conspiracy has been growing in momentum in recent weeks in Puerto Rico.

According to Mari-Bras, there never has been voluntary support for statehood for Puerto Rico, but rather the Puerto Rican people have been led to believe that they can never win their independence. The passage of the Jones Act in 1917 which made Puerto Ricans U.S. citizens marked an important first step toward annexation. This move, however, was never officially approved by the Puerto Rican people, through a referendum or popular vote.

continued on next page

Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Juan Mari-Bras.

Continued from previous page.

The second major stage of the conspiracy to make Puerto Rico a state was known as "Operation Bootstrap." This phase, begun in the 1940's, was characterized by the massive invasion of Puerto Rico by major U.S. industrial, commercial and financial institutions. Today 85% of all industry in Puerto Rico is controlled by U.S. corporations which gross $800 million in profits annually. For the most part they do not pay taxes. A consequence of this domination has been an unemployment rate of more than 33%, resulting in the forced migration of more than 40% of the island's population.

During this period, a Puerto Rican bourgeoisie (middle class) emerged which gained control and influence of the major economic and political institutions in Puerto Rico. They established ties not only with major U.S. businesses but also with the U.S. intelligence community. Mari-Bras points out that these professionals, bureaucrats and businessmen maintained relationships with CIA operations in Virginia, Costa Rica and Mexico. In fact, it was a report from the State Department, the famous "Borg Report," which called on the U.S. government to "steer Puerto Rico" towards statehood.

Several members of this Puerto Rican bourgeoisie and "mini-intelligence" community described by Mari-Bras are active in the Progressive Party (PNP), the pro-statehood party which recently won elections in Puerto Rico. Members of the PNP have also become involved in the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), a liberal wing of the democratic party. They have identified with Jimmy Carter and are using the ADA as the main base for advancing support for Puerto Rican annexation.

Commenting on the timing of Ford's statehood proposal, Mari-Bras notes that a Puerto Rican-based group called the Analisis, Inc. (whose funding is not publicly known) commissioned the Gallup Corporation in the U.S. to "carry out a supposed poll in the U.S. on the reaction of the North American people to the question of statehood for Puerto Rico." While the poll was conducted on December 14, it was not made public until early January after Ford's announcement was intended to advance the interests of the U.S. in gaining control of offshore oil discovered near the island. Deposits of petroleum off the shore of Puerto Rico are projected to yield 200,000 barrels a day for the next 25 years.

Progressive groups in the U.S., including the PSP and the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, are calling for active support of the bill introduced by U.S. Congressman Ron Dellums (Calif.) which would transfer unconditionally all powers now exercised by the U.S. government over Puerto Rico to the Puerto Rican people themselves. Following that transfer of power, the Dellums' resolution urges the people of Puerto Rico to convene an assembly in order to "determine their own future."

Meanwhile, the U.N. has announced that its Special Decolonization Committee will examine the "colonial case" of Puerto Rico in a special open session in 1977. This will be the 5th consecutive year for the U.N. to consider the question since Puerto Rico was declared a colony by the U.N. in 1972.□

Frequent and popular demonstrations in support of independence for Puerto Rico contradict the suggestion that the Puerto Rican people would like their country to become a state.

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

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Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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"Demilitarized Zones"

Presidents, men of the cabinet, business leaders should read a book of poems called "Demilitarized Zones" by and about Veterans after Vietnam. For the Vietnam Veterans remain a problem for the powerful few. Over three million men have shared in Vietnam, and the U.S.A. does not appear to be able to satisfy the greatest number of them. It can't even find jobs for them, or decent education for their children, or decent housing for them and their families. The Presidents are saying and have been saying something must be done.

They should read "Demilitarized Zones." If they deported all the Mexicans who were driven here by poverty in their country caused by the exploitation of U.S. businesses in Mexico, gave their $2 an hour jobs to the Vets, would that solve the problem? If they spent a few billion dollars to provide methadone maintenance programs to dope them out, controlling them while their minds and bones were destroyed, would that satisfy them?

Since the Presidents, men of the cabinet and business leaders won't read "Demilitarized Zones," all of us should. We will find that there is only one thing that can possibly satisfy the Veterans of Vietnam. And that one thing will cause a great change in this country, because the only thing that will satisfy them now is justice.□

IN DREAM

Those never ending chow lines
We thought were over, for sure,
Have followed us, all the way
To the unemployment lines.

No jobs, no security
Who deals it?

It's like shifting sides
In a continuous nightmare.

I still find myself saying
"I just want to go home."

Bruce Langbein

WHEN CHICKEN MAN CAME HOME TO ROOST

You had a good home when you left!
—yer right!
You had a good car when you left!
—yer right!
You had a good girl when you left!
—yer right!
JODY was there when you left!
—yer right!
—Drill Mill's favorite marching jive.

1.
(He still wore the OD tee shirt
With sleeves ripped off.)
Chicken Man flapped
Down the end of the bar
—a Sat-tray night—
And taps a beer from Jody
(Who was there when he left.)
Jody asks:
"Where ya been man?
Ain't seen ya in near a year!"
Chicken Man squawks:
"Ya got a roger copy Smack!"
Jody:
"Don't get ripped man—
I just wondered where ya been."
Chicken Man:
"Down on that jungle floor!"
And he ran out the bar,
—Jungle rot festering,
Long hair flying
Screaming:
"Sam said getcher guns!"

Jody just slowly shook his head,
Tapped another beer,
And slipped his arm around X.

II.
Chicken Man sat, third row
from the back, aisle seat—
With a pistol shoved inside his pants.
("Lock! One magazine: Load!
Ready on the right! Ready on the left!
The range is no longer clear!
. . . At my command . . .")
Chicken Man slid up behind
Ms. Smiles and stuck
The pistol in her back
as he stared at the nape
Of her lovely neck
. . . And thought of:
Victor Charlie,
With Gran Canyon
Plowed in his nape
by Mike Sixteen

On Auto-Git-Um, Done-Got-Um.
("No Brass—No Ammo, Sir!
No grass—no acid, Sir!
Blood-Gore-On-me, Sir!
—What do I do with it, Sir?")

III.
The SSS Troops
Sat with their wrinkles
In basements—
Everytown, USA;
When Chicken Man
Came home to roost.

He flapped his sleeveless arms
in each astonished face—
Fast screwing up
From the stench,
Cultivated in wet
Monsoon nights under a poncho.
He shook his long, matted hair
In each twisted face
And screamed:
"I won't go away!"

"But who are you?"
Inquired the SSS troops,
When they caught their breath.
"I'm the man
With the gun
Behind your seat in the clouds.
I'm the man:
U.S. stamped, certified trained,
Guaranteed kill ratio,
Sealed for delivery—
Down on that jungle floor!"
Chicken Man squawked
At the gaping SSS troops.
Then, he ran flapping
Out into the plastic jungle—
Screaming:
"Who am I?
You don't know,
But I gotcher gun
Sam!!"

Frank A. Cross, Jr.

Demilitarized Zones was published by East River Anthology and can be ordered through Keep Strong Publishing Company.

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Chicago Area Black Lung Association members plan their monthly meeting.

- **LEGAL PROGRAM**
- **RECORD EXPUNGEMENT**
- **WELFARE DEFENSE**
- **TENANTS' RIGHTS**
- **TRANSPORTATION TO PRISONS**
- **TUTORIAL PROGRAM**
- **BLACK LUNG COUNSELING**
- **"VICTIMS OF CRIME" PROGRAM**
- **SAFETY & RECREATION PROGRAM**
- **VETERANS' RIGHTS COUNSELING**

Welfare Clinic: **Tuesdays**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Legal Clinic: **Mondays**
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tenants' Rights Clinic: **Tuesdays**
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesdays
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

1222 W. Wilson 769-2085

As a result of many years of struggling by miners for the recognition of Black Lung as a disease that results directly from work in the coal mines some benefits have passed the way of some miners. As attempts to have the serious effects and realities of the disease recognized by the coal companies and the government agencies alike continue, more and more is being learned by the coal miners themselves. Rarely spoken of, however, is the effects that this coal miners' disease has on the families that have to live with it.

"That situation can separate the family. My husband was gasping to breathe half the time. He'd wake me up sometime through the night and I'd have to shake him, I'd have to hit him, to get his breath back to him. The kids couldn't walk across the floor, they couldn't play the TV, they couldn't play the radio. It was just driving all of us up a wall."